

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

**Are you in favor
of the CNMI and
Guam reuniting?**

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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INSIDE



Tornado Outbreak

Firefighters searched one splintered pile after another for survivors Thursday, combing the remains of houses and neighborhoods pulverized by the nation's deadliest tornado outbreak.

Nation...Page 10



New Graduates

A total of 252 Filipino workers graduated from the nine different training courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General Office and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Maharlika...Page 12



Royal Wedding

With the two simple words "I will," Prince William and Kate Middleton are ending months of buildup and sealing their love with the most public of spectacles.

Life & Style...Page 20

Papasang guilty of 10 charges

» **Defendant faces 92 years maximum jail term**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Qun Yu, also known as Papasang, smiles as a Corrections officer escorts him to the courtroom yesterday afternoon in Superior Court.

Qun Yu, a 47-year-old Chinese national tagged by authorities as a big-time "ice" supplier, yesterday was found guilty of all 10 charges that carry a total maximum penalty of 92 years in jail.

After deliberating for about five hours, the six jurors rendered a guilty verdict on Yu on two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance, and three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, who decided the four charges,

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IN OPA, INTERIOR JOINT INSPECTION REPORT Risks in CNMI's ARRA money spending

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI needs to strengthen its internal controls when it comes to oversight of millions of dollars in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for better transparency and accountability, a joint local and federal report says.

Inadequate monitoring func-

tions, poor documentation of ARRA awards, and inability to use prior audit findings and risk management tools were among the weaknesses identified that were specific to the CNMI.

These are contained in an evaluation report on the CNMI's oversight of ARRA funds from February 2009 through June 2010.

The Fitial administration, when

asked for comment, said yesterday it has been addressing the concerns in the report.

The joint evaluation on the CNMI's oversight of ARRA money, which found internal control weaknesses that elevated the risks over spending of these federal funds, was done by OPA and the U.S. Department of the Interior's

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Inos breaks record by signing 10 proclamations in 1 day

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed 10 different proclamations in three different locations yesterday, breaking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's record last year of eight proclamations in one day.

Inos started the signing at 9am before local and federal law enforcement officers and personnel at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

At the Department of Corrections, Inos signed six proclamations declaring the following: May 2 to 8 CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week; May 15 to 21 Emergency Medical Services Week; May 15 to 21 CNMI Safe Boating Week; May 15 to 21 CNMI Police Week and May 15 Peace Officers' Memorial Day; May 18 Emergency

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs one of 10 proclamations he signed in three different locations yesterday, breaking last year's record of eight proclamations in a single day. To Inos' left is acting Public Safety commissioner Ray Mafnas.



CNMI visitor arrivals down 16% in March. PAGE 2

NMI student wins scholarship from Aspen Music Festival and School. PAGE 5

Local

CNMI visitor arrivals down 16% in March

Visitor arrivals to the CNMI in March 2011 were down 16 percent compared to March 2010, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Figures from the islands' tourism agency said arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 30,376 visitors last month compared to 36,220 in January 2010.

Arrivals from Japan fell 21 percent to 17,214 visitors in March. The March 5 Saipan Marathon attracted a record number of 800 participants, but nearly 1,800 cancellations were made from Japan following the March 11 earthquake, tsunami, and resulting nuclear crisis.

Prior to the earthquake, the CNMI was averaging a healthy 87 percent airplane load factor from Japan for the month, but the load factor dropped to 64 percent following the disaster.

Overall, arrivals from Japan in March 2011 compared to March 2010 had been down 8 percent before the earthquake, dropping to -26 percent following the disaster.

Also, since December 2010 one daily flight from Narita was reduced to only three times a week. Therefore, instead of three daily flights from Narita, the CNMI receives two daily flights from Narita and one flight arriving three days per week.

However, industry watchers are indicating that outbound travel from Japan is already starting to recover to normal levels, and that cancellations have almost entirely worked themselves out of the system.

Generally, the MVA and authorities from popular tourist destinations such as Hawaii, Guam, and South Korea pre-

dict a 20-30 percent decrease in Japanese arrivals for the coming two to three months.

Arrivals from the primary market of Korea posted its first loss this fiscal year, falling 14 percent to 7,072.

While the airline load factor prior to the earthquake was an average 73 percent, fears of radiation from Japan reaching the Commonwealth caused the average load factor to fall to 59 percent for the month.

Overall, arrivals from Korea in March 2011 compared to March 2010 had been up 2 percent before the earthquake in Japan, dropping to -22 percent following the disaster.

Meanwhile, Asiana Airlines has decided to discontinue its Busan-Saipan service, effective June 6, 2011. Asiana said that the profitability of the Busan-Saipan route was insufficient to

continue operating the service due to low average load factors.

The secondary market of China saw 2,707 arrivals in March, also a 15-percent decline over the same month last year. The CNMI received one charter flight in March 2011 compared to two charter flights in March 2010.

Arrivals from Russia posted a robust 31-percent increase to 650 arrivals in March, continuing to ride the strength of the Russian Ruble and publicity gained from several media and travel agent FAM tours to the Northern Marianas in late 2010, including one television program that continues to be replayed nationwide due to its popularity.

Arrivals from the United States increased 51 percent to 1,137, bolstered by the arrival of one military vessel. Meanwhile,

other source markets were lower, including Guam down 16 percent (1,307 arrivals), Philip-

pines down 22 percent to 35, and Other Areas down 17 percent (246). (MVA)

Garrison says he will not resign

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

As the small protest calling for his ouster entered its fourth day yesterday, Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison is still firm in his decision to stay at his post and continue to serve the students of the oldest public secondary institution on island.

Since Tuesday, placards and slogans calling for Garrison's removal from office have been displayed across the campus, catching the attention of motorists and passersby.

Disgruntled MHS teacher James Yangetmai, along with his supporters, has also been on the site criticizing the principal's leadership style and management practices.

But Garrison admitted yesterday to *Saipan Tribune* that he is not bothered at all by Yangetmai's protests and admitted that he has no plans of stepping down from his position.

"It's a dead issue [for me]," he said yesterday, alluding to the protesters' demands. He refused to further comment on the matter saying he already spoke about the truth.

The MHS principal earlier denied all allegations of Yangetmai pertaining to his leadership style that resulted to the reassignment of some teachers. A



Garrison

big assembly is slated for next week at MHS where Garrison will present to the community the real picture of the institution and the direction it is heading to.

Saipan Tribune learned that Garrison and Yangetmai have talked over the telephone Thursday evening.

However, Yangetmai described the conversation as "still in a stalemate" after the principal refused the group's demand for him to step down.

"It's stalemate...he's not going to step down and it seems the education commissioner has no plans of doing it or resolve the issue. It's very disappointing," said Yangetmai yesterday.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has not answered calls when *Saipan Tribune* attempted to contact her yesterday.

Earlier, she described the issue at MHS as a school-level issue that needs to be resolved first within that scope.

According to Yangetmai, they may probably resume their protest on Monday morning. He disclosed that despite the "protest" against the principal, Garrison remains a good friend of his.

Yangetmai said since the rally on Tuesday, his group has been gaining support from students, some teachers, and members of the community.

Senate confirms Torres to serve on NMC Board of Regents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the governor's nomination of William S. Torres to serve on the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents.

Eight of the nine senators voted "yes" on the confirmation, while Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) abstained from voting.

In abstaining from voting, Manglona declared conflict of interest because the nominee is his brother-in-law.

Now that he's confirmed by the Senate, Torres will serve the remainder of the term left vacant by former NMC board chair Paz Younis up to June 27, 2013. Torres will represent Saipan/private sector on the NMC Board of Regents.



Torres

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, at the same time, said during yesterday's session that his panel will hold a public hearing Monday on Ray Mafnas' appointment as Department of Public Safety commissioner.

The Senate EAGI Committee also has yet to confirm many of the governor's appointees and re-

appointees, including Larissa Larson as Finance secretary, Kwang Joong Kim to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors, Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou on the Medical Profession Licensing Board, Julian Hofschneider also on the NMC board, Carmen H. Atalig on the Professional Licensing Board, and Ignacio Perez on the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.



EASTER GIFT BASKETS

First Lady, Josie P. Fitial donated Easter gift baskets to Division of Youth Services for children in their care. From left, Rita M. Castro, Resel Billy, Vivian T. Sablan, First Lady Josie P. Fitial, DYS director Laura T. Ogomoro, and Remy Buniag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shell follows Mobil's 10-cent gas price hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas mirrored yesterday Mobil Oil Marianas' 10 cents a gallon gas price increase the previous day, barely a week after the two oil giants raised their pump prices also by 10 cents a gallon as the unrests in the Middle East and North Africa continue.

Saipan motorists are now paying \$4.759 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline, \$5.079 a gallon for super unleaded gasoline, and \$5.219 a gallon for diesel.

Herman Santos, 70, said it's "frustrating" that gas prices continue to go up while the economy continues to go down.

"But what can we do? We need gas. I myself don't have the power to do something about the gas prices. I don't know if the governor, the Legislature,



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A price display at a Shell Marianas service station in Tanapag yesterday afternoon shows the results of a 10-cent increase in pump prices, a day after Mobil Oil Marianas also raised its prices.

and other elected officials can do something about it," Santos told *Saipan Tribune* while he was putting \$10 gas to his white

sedan at a Shell service station in Tanapag yesterday afternoon.

Santos, of As Matuis, said he will further cut down on his other expenses, especially because he relies only on his Social Security pension.

He said the \$10 gas he paid for yesterday would last for only four to five days, unlike before when it would last for up to two weeks.

John Benavente, who put \$15 gas to his vehicle yesterday also at a Shell service station in Tanapag, said the latest 10-cent increase will force him to really cut down on other expenses, including cigarettes, beer, and junk food.

"Now we'll only buy the most important things at home like food but not junk food," said the As Matuis resident.

To Shell and Mobil, Benavente has one message: "Please put your price down."

Mobil hiked its pump prices

at 10am on Thursday, while Shell followed early yesterday morning. The oil giants do not issue advance notices of price increases.

As a result of the latest round of price increases, Mobil and Shell's super unleaded gasoline and diesel have already breached the psychologically important threshold of \$5 a gallon. They are also now higher than the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Gas prices in the CNMI are also among—if not the—highest in the U.S. and its territories.

Saipan motorists are now paying at least 63 to 68 cents more for every gallon they pump into their vehicles as a result of the seven price increases since the start of 2011. Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least \$2.10 to \$2.15 a gallon in gasoline prices.

Missing canoeist found alive after extensive search

SANTA RITA, Guam—A missing canoeist was found alive and in good condition after a four-day, multi-agency search, approximately 350 miles southwest of Guam, Thursday.

The mariner was found on Federaci Island in the Ulithi Atoll by fishermen from Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia. He was transferred to the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington and is scheduled to return to his home on Fais Island.

Sector Guam watchstanders were notified Monday that the canoeist had not returned from a fishing trip as scheduled on Saturday.

An HC-130 Hercules aircraft from Air Station Barbers Point,

Hawaii and a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion long-range search aircraft from Okinawa, Japan were launched on Monday to assist in the search. The crew of the cutter Washington was also sent out to search.

Citizens from FSM assisted in the search, providing use of local fishing vessels. Local mariners began a search for the canoeist two days earlier.

"This is an excellent example of multi-agency coordination and search effort," said Lt. Gregg Maye, Sector Guam command center supervisor. "The Coast Guard is thankful for the continued support of its military and civilian partners, whose assistance was essential in the success of this mission." (*USCG*)

All set for San Jose Fiesta on Tinian

The San Jose Fiesta, which honors the town's patron saint, San Jose the Worker, is one of the biggest events for the island south of Saipan.

The last day of the novena is scheduled at 4:30pm on April 30 followed by a mass at 5pm. The traditional procession will begin at 6pm and followed by the banquet.

Meanwhile, the various sporting events are scheduled from April 25 to 29.

The coronation of the San Jose Fiesta King & Queen, on the other hand, will be on April 29, 7pm at Kammer Beach.

Some 18 food and merchandise booths will open on Friday for the fiesta, with island-style

entertainment to be provided by Afetna Regime, Parker, PSS Music Club, Frank & Steve, Elementary Dance Club, Taotao Taga Dance Academy, and the Hofschneider Band.

The raffle draw on Sunday will conclude the fiesta celebration. Exciting prizes are at stake, including the baby grand prize of \$500 and the grand prize of \$1,000.

"The leadership and people of Tinian are inviting the general public throughout the Commonwealth to come and join us for the annual San Jose Fiesta celebration," said Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz.

For information, call 433-1801 or 1802. (*PR*)

PSS named finalist of DOD employer support award

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System has been selected one of the three finalists from Guam and the CNMI that will advance to the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed this to the Board of Education as soon as she received the notification Wednesday.

The Secretary of Defense Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guards and Reserve.

During Wednesday's board meeting, Sablan disclosed that this is the first time that the school system has been named to such a prestigious award and was excited about it.

"We received today [Wednesday] from Guam and CNMI ESGR [employer support for the guards and reserve] a notice informing that PSS is one of the three finalists in the area to have been selected into the semifinalist that would go to the next level for review for the U.S. Secretary of Defense Freedom Award," said Sablan.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS was among the first agencies in the CNMI who were recognized by the ESGR in May 2009 for its exceptional

support and assistance to employees affiliated with the U.S. Armed Forces, such as those in the reserves and National Guard.

PSS was also awarded the same recognition in 2010 until it was bestowed the highest ESGR award in state level recently.

The CNMI Public School System was hailed last month as ESGR's top awardee receiving the Pro Patria Award which is the highest recognition given to a state-level civilian employer.

Sablan was also named recipient of the Seven Seals Award for the schools hiring of members of the Guards and Reserve.

This year marked the sys-

tem's third consecutive year of receiving the ESGR honors.

The commissioner described the prestigious honors as results of shared responsibility and leadership between the system and the board.

"This has to do with policies that have been put together to support our employees. Obviously, the board has made very sound decision in how employees are taking care of and nurture within the system," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Education board chair Marylou S. Ada also expressed elation on the recent achievement of the system.

"The board is very pleased about it and hopefully we will make it," she said, adding that BOE and PSS will continue

to support teachers who want to serve the nation. The board leader assured that job will always be available for these service members who want to return to the islands.

PSS, with the help of the federal government, has been successfully helping the islands' reservists and returning soldiers by employing them as teacher assistants through the AmeriCorps program. While helping to improve student learning in the classrooms, these "employees" are also entitled to continue and obtain their degrees in the Northern Marianas College.

Sablan said there are over 44 teachers currently employed under the Troops-to-Teacher Program of PSS.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Navy Hill burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at a residence located in Navy Hill.

On Monday, April 25, 2011, at about 2pm, the victim(s) returned home to discover their residence had been broken into and items stolen. The victim left the residence at around 12pm that day and was away for only two hours. The suspect(s) gained entry by jumping a wall and removing

the screen from a bedroom window. The items stolen include two registered firearms and a piggybank containing an undetermined amount of coins.

The registered firearms and stolen items are described as follows:

1. (1) Browning .22 caliber rifle
2. (1) Interarm Rifle .22 caliber lever action.
3. 2 boxes of .22 caliber ammunition (50) each. Total 100 rounds.
4. A clear Bear shaped piggybank with U.S. coins.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*PR*)

Royal Thai Massage

Mother's Day Promotion **\$15.00**
per hour of full body massage

Monday to Friday • 10am - 5pm

Open daily 10:00am - 11:00pm • Tel: 234-2521

1st Floor Saipan Gold Beach Hotel (Beach Road, Garapan)
Promo valid for ladies only.

WALK/RUN WITH SOPHIA-FIESTA

Saipan Outdoor Physical Healthy Invigoration Adventure Sunday, May 15, 2011

Registration - 6:00 a.m. • Start Time - 6:30 a.m.

Starting point Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

10K Turning Point - Across the MVA office in San Jose

5K Turning Point - Across Saipan Gold Beach Hotel

\$10 registration fee you will get:

- Goody bag w/lots of free gifts inside, including a SOPHIA-FIESTA T-shirt (first 200 registered participants)
- Light breakfast & entertainment at Fiesta's Ocean View
- Medals and \$100 cash prize awarded to each category:
Best Costume, Largest Group Participant, Youngest Walker/Runner (4-11 yrs. old)
Oldest Walker/Runner, 1st female to finish 10K; 1st male to finish 10K;
1st female to finish 5K; 1st male to finish 5K

Advance Registration may be done at PDI's office or Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

For inquiries please contact Mario@322-8786, Hiroko @ 322-8778,

Bea @ 285-1694 or Elena @ 234-6412 ext. 1512



Govendo starts evidentiary hearing in lawsuit over Marpi poles

» TRO remains; ex-Rep. Tina Sablan, Kindle testify

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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday started conducting an evidentiary hearing in the Friends of Marpi's lawsuit against the CNMI government over the installation of power poles in Marpi.

After listening to testimonies of Friends of Marpi's two witnesses—former House representative Christina Sablan and Suzy Kindle—Govendo continued the hearing for Monday at 9am.

Govendo ordered that the temporary restraining that he issued on April 19, 2011 shall remain. The TRO momentarily stopped the CNMI government from installing more poles in Marpi until the evidentiary hearing is done.

Friends of Marpi counsel David G. Banes first briefly discussed how they were able to obtain a federal court order on Thursday that granted their emergency motion to remand the law-

suit to the Superior Court.

Assistant Attorney General Gilbert Birnrich, counsel for the CNMI government and co-defendants in the lawsuit, pointed out that the plaintiffs brought one-sided allegations as they were not allowed to respond to the emergency motion.

"Judge, he's (Banes) just trying to inflame the court," Birnrich said.

Govendo said he already read yesterday (Friday) the federal court order in a newspaper.

Banes mentioned the oppositions to the Marpi poles project raised by many agencies and groups such as the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Beautify CNMI, and the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation.

Banes also mentioned that there are now over 300 persons who signed their petition against the project.

Banes then called to the witness

stand former Rep. Sablan, who is one of the plaintiffs and a member of the Friends of Marpi.

Calling Marpi as "a very special place," Sablan remembered going to the place with her father when she was a child to watch birds.

Sablan said she also like to go to Marpi with friends, family, and relatives since she was a child.

Sablan said she asked her father yesterday, Friday, if they can watch birds again in Marpi, but that her father stated "no" because he is now angry about the poles.

Sablan then basically testified how she first learned about plans to install power lines in Marpi in mid-November 2010 and the many letters she wrote to various officials and agencies, inquiring about the need for power at the Marpi cemetery.

Sablan also disclosed the many letters she wrote and meetings to investigate the project and call for public hearings, among other things.

After Sablan's long testimony, Banes

called Kindle, who is also among the plaintiffs.

Kindle said she has been on Saipan for 21 years now and that one of the reasons of her stay here is the beauty

of Marpi.

Kindle said Marpi is her favorite place to run and swim. She said when she learned about the poles, she was shocked, sad, and very angry.

INOS

From Page 1

Medical Services for Children Day; and May 23 to June 5 Click It or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Month.

Acting Public Safety commissioner Ray Mafnas thanked law enforcement personnel for their loyalty and hard-work, and assured them of compassion. Mafnas previously served as corrections commissioner.

Inos, for his part, lauded the enforcement personnel for carrying out their responsibilities despite the difficulties that the CNMI encounters.

"We're grateful for the years of services you continue to provide despite the challenges. We will continue to do our part. And like commissioner Mafnas said, he pledged his support and we will be watching him as he carries out (his functions)," he added.

Inos also encouraged Department of Corrections and Department of Public Safety personnel to attend a Senate public hearing on Mafnas' nomination as DPS commissioner on Monday afternoon.

An hour later, the lieutenant governor proceeded to the Office on Aging in Garapan to sign two proclamations declaring May Foster Care Month and

Older Americans Month.

At 2pm, Inos signed two more proclamations, this time at the Department of Public Health in Garapan.

Inos proclaimed May CNMI Tourism Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.

This year's theme for Tourism Month remains, "Tourism is everybody's business."

In fiscal year 2010, the CNMI's remaining industry—tourism—contributed \$240 million in direct impact and \$789 million in indirect impact on the local economy.

"As people throughout the world become more aware of the unique recreational, cultural, and lifestyle appeal of the Northern Marianas, tourism can play an even greater role in improving the lives of people," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan accompanied Inos to the 10 proclamation signings.

On April 1 last year, Fitial signed eight proclamations while Inos at the time was busy with the submission of the FY 2011 budget whose deadline was that day.

Prior to that, Fitial designated Inos to sign all proclamations declared by the Office of the Governor effective Jan. 27, 2010.

GUILTY

From Page 1

also found Yu guilty of two counts of possession of a controlled substance, one count of obstruction of justice, and one count of resisting arrest.

Yu, also known as Papasang and Jay, who listening to an interpreter when the verdict was read, appeared calm throughout the hearing.

Wiseman said sentencing will be on June 29, 2011 at 9am. He directed the Adult Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

Wiseman said he carefully considered all the testimonies, evidence presented, and arguments by both counsels in reaching a verdict finding Yu guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The judge noted the testimonies of witnesses and the many evidence presented by the prosecution to support his findings as to four charges.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for Yu, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that although they disagreed with the verdict, they respect the jury's and the court's decision.

Woodruff said there are a number of issues in the trial that he will be discussing with the defendant in determining what possible post-trial actions to be taken.

Woodruff said the government did an effective job although there were many issues, many things that may have to be resolved on appeal with regard to this case.

Assistant Attorney General Russell Lorfing told *Saipan Tribune* that they are very pleased with the unanimous verdict.

Citing the Office of the Attorney General's three successive trials in "ice" cases that all reached a convic-

tion, Lorfing said the jury really sent a clear message that they are tired of distribution of "ice" in this community.

Lorfing said Yu is facing the maximum jail term of 92 years as the trafficking of "ice" charge alone carries a mandatory minimum of 25 years in prison.

Lorfing commended members of the CNMI Drug Task Force and the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau for doing "an excellent job."

Assistant Attorney General Tiberius Mocanu was the one who conducted the closing arguments for the government.

The trial began on Monday.

According to the prosecution, Yu sold a total of 2.5 grams of "ice" to "cooperating defendant" on Aug. 3 and 4, 2010.

Yu managed to escape during a car chase with CNMI Drug Task Force members and detectives along Middle Road in Gualo Rai to Chalan Kiya in the afternoon of Aug. 4, 2010.

When Yu's Toyota Land Cruiser crashed into some trash outside a house in Chalan Kiya, the defendant jumped out and fled into the jungle.

Yu's girlfriend, Coco (Zhang Ling) and the "cooperating defendant" were in the vehicle and were arrested.

In the subsequent search at Yu's residence, task force agents reportedly seized over 540 grams or half a kilo of "ice." After testing, however, the substance turned out to be sugar.

On Aug. 25, 2010, Yu was arrested after an unidentified man reported spotting an Asian male in Marpi who seemed disoriented and dehydrated.

Patrol officers spotted the man later identified as the then wanted Yu in the vicinity of the former Radar Station.

RISKS

From Page 1

Office of Inspector General.

Public auditor Michael Pai said if these weaknesses are left uncorrected, they will most likely result in non-compliance with ARRA spending requirements.

Failure to comply with ARRA requirements could result in less money for the already cash-strapped CNMI government.

"Consequently, a significant number of questioned costs may be reported in the CNMI annual single audits," Pai said in an April 14, 2011 report addressed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The report was posted only yesterday on the Office of the Public Auditor website.

Some \$92.4 million in ARRA funds were awarded to the CNMI as of June 30, 2010, but only some \$21.1 million or roughly 23 percent was spent.

The trend remained as of Dec. 31, 2010.

Of the \$118 million in ARRA money awarded as of end-2010, some \$77 million has yet to be spent.

Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan clashed several times over what Sablan described as "delayed" spending of ARRA funds already awarded to the CNMI but the Fitial administration said a host of factors make up for that delay in spending, including the ARRA requirements themselves.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos received a copy of the report on April 14, 2011 and responded on April 18, 2011. He said this is turnaround time of one business day.

Demapan said the CNMI ARRA Office has begun working on the recommendation, to include setting up meetings with OPA next week to discuss compliance matters with the line agencies.

"Compliance checks have been initiated and are currently ongoing," he said. "CNMI ARRA has also looked at inventory of ARRA funded equipment, activity reports for ARRA fund-

ed personnel, appropriate usage of ARRA funded equipment, time sheets, vehicle mileage, leave request, etc."

The press secretary said other issues are also being addressed at this time, including the recommendation to the website and working with the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to have their information listed on the site.

"We anticipate getting most of the work out of the way in the next two weeks. We take this information very seriously and we are committed to implementing the recommendations as swiftly as possible," Demapan added.

Internal control weaknesses

Three major types of internal control weaknesses were identified in the OPA/Interior report: those created by the manner in which the ARRA was implemented; those inherent in the insular areas; and those specific to the CNMI.

The priority placed on swift injection of federal money into the economy resulted in weak planning, training, and development of timely ARRA regulations and procedures.

Historically, the insular areas have suffered from a lack of capacity in the areas of accounting and auditing.

For example, several major positions within the CNMI have remained unfilled due to education and experience requirements, compounded by lower salaries available in insular areas.

Pai said given the weaknesses presented in the manner the ARRA was implemented, the inherent weaknesses faced by insular areas and specific weaknesses noted at a CNMI agency level, "OPA does not expect an immediate improvement in grants management."

Among the weaknesses specific to the CNMI are:

- ARRA funds directory awarded to CNMI autonomous agencies fall outside the central government's visibility and control;
- Prior audit findings and risk management tools were not used to identify areas of potential fraud, waste and

abuse, and potential noncompliance with legislation and grant requirements;

- Monitoring functions that the Department of Finance performed were inadequate with respect to transfers and receipt of recovery funds;
- Poor documentation of recovery awards; and
- ARRA money expenditure and award information on the CNMI's official website for ARRA programs was not current and complete for better transparency.

The public auditor said with the increase in federal grant activity created by ARRA, OPA also anticipates increases in the number of audit findings and the amount of questioned costs.

"If dedicated resources, such as funding, technical assistance, and training in the area of grants management and reporting are not made available, the degree of risk of incurring a substantial amount of questioned costs will likely increase which will potentially result in less revenue for government operations," Pai said.

Pai said since a private firm, Integrated Professional Solutions LLC, has been contracted by the CNMI to provide oversight function for projects and programs funded by ARRA money, OPA recommends that Fitial's office work with IPS to address the recommendations.

Former CNMI ARRA state point of contact Michael Ada commented on the OPA/Interior draft report on Aug. 31, 2010. Ada was also the Commerce secretary at the time.

Pai said they found the ARRA management's response to the results and recommendations to be "adequate" except for their response to address to a recommendation related to monitoring the functions of Finance pertaining to federal funds drawdowns, deposits, disbursement, recording, and reporting.

Days after sending that letter to OPA, Ada resigned from the CNMI government and his company, IPS, was awarded a sole-source contract to monitor the ARRA programs as was performed previously under the CNMI ARRA office which he used to head.

NMI student wins scholarship from Aspen Music Festival and School

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A young musician from the Commonwealth has been accepted to the summer program of Aspen Music Festival and School.

The institution provides opportunities for scholars to be trained under the auspices of famous musicians.

Fourteen-year-old Zhen Yu of Do Re Mi Music School also won \$2,000 to be used for incidental expenses while attending the school's summer program set from June 22 to Aug. 21.

Yu is among the brightest young musicians of Do Re Mi and has bagged several recognitions and awards here and off-island. He has won four gold medals from Guam's Tumon Bay Music Festival in 2009 and 2011; and in Guam's Young Artists Competition in 2010.

Yu, the son of Hong Chao Chen, started playing the violin when he was 6 years old under the supervision of teachers Ao Zhang and Yi Wang.

Last Thursday, he expressed his excitement on the upcoming challenge in his life.

"For me, this is a real opportunity to explore. I think it will be fun and I am looking forward to meeting more talented musicians around the world. I am so excited!"

Yu thanked his music instructors and his family for their unconditional support and guidance.

He is looking forward to gain more knowledge about music in the summer program.

"I am extremely proud of Zhen Yu. Since the first time I met him, I have seen the great potential in him. He is one of our great students and Do Re Mi is truly proud of Zhen," said



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Do Re Mi's Zhen Yu, second from right, poses with his mother and instructors at his music class.

school president and music director Ao Zhang.

Meantime, Yu's mother—Hong Chao Chen—vowed to provide all-out support to her son and will accompany him in the states.

According to Aspen Music Festival and School dean Joan Gordon, the institution provides student performer opportunities for continued study and enrichment at the highest level.

"Congratulations! It is my

pleasure to inform you that you have been accepted to study at the Aspen Music School. Your acceptance by the faculty and administration of the school indicates our confidence in your artistic potential," said Gordon

in her letter to Yu.

The Aspen Music Festival and School, founded in 1949, is an internationally renowned classical music festival that presents music in an intimate, small-town setting. It is a training ground for young adult musicians.

Saipan Tribune learned that more than 350 classical music events take place in eight weeks every summer, from July to August, including performances by four on-site orchestras, chamber music, opera, contemporary music, children's events, lectures, and discussions.

There are up to eight events a day and more than 100,000 patrons participate. There are an estimated 750 young musicians attending the school from throughout the United States and the world and almost 40 nations are represented.

NMC and PSS host training for counselors

The Northern Marianas College recently co-sponsored a counselors conference with the CNMI Public School System to help standardize counseling services based on the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) national model of counseling.

ASCA's model focuses on providing a comprehensive guidance and counseling program in three areas: personal/social, academic and career counseling. ASCA is a division of the American Counseling Association. The adoption of the ASCA model will help enable counselors to better gauge the

effectiveness of the counseling services provided to students.

Dr. Rhonda Williams (ASCA Ethics chair) and Dr. Julaine E. Field, both members of the ASCA and who are certified counselor trainers, conducted the Counselors Conference. Both presenters are professors of school counseling at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (UCCS).

In the past, a few selected counselors would have been able to participate in mainland U.S.. However, after a year of planning, training in the ASCA model was finally made available to all counselors in the CNMI through this conference.

"NMC's partnership is key in the collaborative work being done with our counselors," said Jessica Taylor, CNMI PSS Program Coordinator. "The PSS counselors now have the opportunity to attend an important conference that

will help them grow in their profession as well as benefit the students in the CNMI."

The conference is the beginning of a three-year strategic plan of the counseling core of PSS. The core's goal is for PSS counselors to become highly qualified counselors according to the ASCA model. The counseling core is made up of six members: Patty Mendoza of Oleai Elementary School, Daisy Bier of San Antonio Elementary School, Shimiko Montgomery of Tanapag Elementary School, Andrea Thompson of Tinian Junior Senior High School, Josiah Kyonka of Hopwood Jr. High School, and Melanie Agulto of Marianas High School.

Counselors who attended the Counselors Conference now have the option of applying for two graduate credit hours at the University of Colorado under the Counseling Masters Degree program.



NMC co-sponsored the Counselors Conference by providing funds through a grant from the College Challenge Access Program (CACAP). NMC counselors also attended the

conference to learn about the ASCA model that PSS counselors are adopting, as well as to present information on the counseling services NMC offers. The NMC staff members that helped produced the conference are Dr. Tim Baker Director of Counseling Programs and Services, Leo Pangelinan Dean of Student Services and the CNMI CACP student ambassadors. **(PR)**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Rhonda Williams of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) was the trainer at the Counselors Conference where she introduced the ASCA model to PSS and NMC counselors at the Aqua Resort Club with fellow UCCS counselor Dr. Julaine Field. NMC and PSS co-hosted the Counselors Conference.

Military training at FDM on May 2

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the public that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting military exercises on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Monday, May 2, from 6pm to 10pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R Fitial is strongly advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. **(EMO)**

Sorensen Media Group comes aboard as MMAC title sponsor

Sorensen Media Group (Power 99/97.9 The Kat/ABC7) has been named a title sponsor of the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Title sponsorship is the highest level of sponsorship for the annual event and is conferred on companies that donate \$3,000 or more in cash or services.

"Sorensen Media Group has been a strong supporter in the fight against cancer and we are incredibly grateful for their continued support of this worthy cause. The 2011 MMAC committee would like to thank the staff and management of Sorensen Media Group for their contribution in the battle against cancer," said 2011 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held from 5:30pm to 6am on May 13-14 at the Hopwood Junior High

School field in Chalan Piao.

"We are inviting the entire community to come down and join us for a fun-filled night of games, great food and live entertainment all in honor of cancer survivors and those who have unfortunately lost the fight against this deadly disease. We have 11 teams that will be fundraising overnight in order to raise funds for cancer patient assistance, cancer awareness programs and other cancer related services. We understand that these are hard times but we are hopeful that the CNMI community gathers together to support our friends and relatives who are facing this ailment," said Concepcion.

Luminaries are being sold for only \$5 each. Each luminary will be lit the entire night in honor of or in memory of someone who has survived cancer or has lost the fight against this

disease. To purchase a luminary or for more information, contact 2011 MMAC luminary committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves at 285-4089 or email attao20@yahoo.com.

Raffle tickets are also being sold for only \$5 each. Prizes up for grabs include a free airline ticket to the U.S. mainland, a free ticket to Honolulu, Hawaii, plus other travel related items courtesy of title sponsor Delta Air Lines. Title sponsor IT&E has also donated several raffle prizes including gift bags and a free yearlong unlimited local cell phone service plan.

"Importantly, one of the main features of the MMAC is the survivor dinner and recognition ceremony so we are inviting all cancer survivors and anyone currently undergoing cancer treatment to the free dinner held in their honor. Each person who registers for the event

will be given a medallion commemorating their battle against cancer and a T-shirt. Please contact 2011 MMAC survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or email norasablan@gmail.com to register or for more information," said Concepcion.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer is brought to you by title sponsors Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Sorensen Media Group (Power 99/97.9 The Kat/ABC7) and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to GPPC, Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Images Saipan, Ltd., IP&E/Shell Marianas, Marianas Health Services, MMAC Golf Tournament Organizers and Younis Art Studio. For more information visit www.ccamarianas.org. **(PR)**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESSE JAMES CABRERA)	FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,)	ACTION
vs.)	NO. 10-0446
FLORDELIZA)	SUMMONS FOR
RANGEL ABRIGO)	PUBLICATION
Respondent)	

TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505302, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 6th day of January 2011

/s/ Clerk of Court

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Royal wedding: No gift, but good luck!

Millions of Americans, long post-Colonial and averse to caste systems, will nevertheless rise early Friday morning to watch the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. We can't help it—we love ourselves some royalty.

And what's not to be enthralled or appalled by, depending on your point of view? The bride will walk an aisle the length of a football field at Westminster Abbey, before about 1,900 invited guests. Meanwhile, in Kate's hometown of Bucklebury, there are plans for a four-hour bell-ringing in the couple's honor. A British royal wedding is like a cross between "Masterpiece Theater" and "Monty Python."

We've done this before—29 years and 9 months ago to the day, we groggily planted ourselves in front of the TV to watch William's folks get married at St. Paul's Cathedral. We all know how that turned out. But we're up—literally, before dawn—for taking another look at another couple giving it the royal try.

Much like the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, the British monarchy has endured its share of tumult: badly behaving royals, Diana's tragic death and public denunciation of the House of Windsor as an unnecessary, expensive burden on the British public. For years, some Britons have questioned why a democracy needs a monarch in this day and age. The *Guardian* newspaper, for example, editorialized in 2000 that "in time we will move—by democratic consensus—to become a republic."

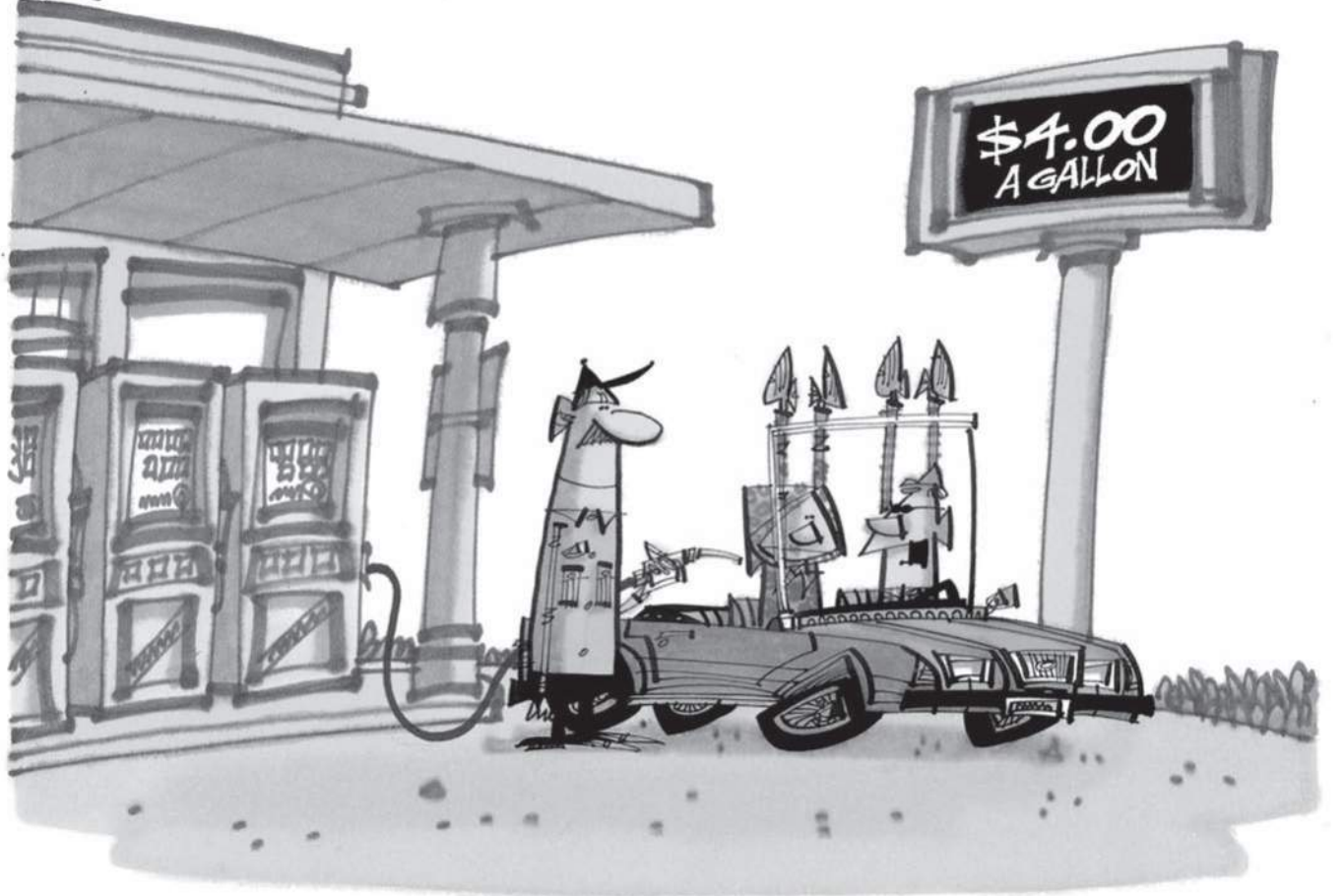
But unlike the marriage of Charles and Diana, the monarchy has survived, arguably its main value being for tourism. Its finances are complicated: There are public sources intended to support the royal family's duties, and there is the queen's private wealth as well. But having acquired some political savvy in her 59 years as queen, Elizabeth volunteered to pay taxes, wisely got rid of the royal yacht and booted some relatives off the "civil list," as the royal gravy train is known.

That hasn't stopped this wedding from being ludicrously expensive. (Some reports say \$40 million.) Prince Charles and Queen Elizabeth are supposedly picking up most of the tab, with Kate's parents—who made their fortune in a party supply business—making a six-figure contribution. The couple has said "no gifts please," asking people to donate to charities instead. Too bad they didn't take a page out of the Los Angeles Dodgers' playbook and just sell television rights.

On the face of it, William and Kate—university-educated, nearing 30, already living together—seem practical and modern enough to survive as a couple and future monarchs. (He is second in line to the throne, behind his father.) We just have two words for them: mazel tov.

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"REMEMBER WHEN PEOPLE USED TO ROB GAS STATIONS?"

May Day

The first day of May is workers day in China and other parts of the world, one of the four pillars of the 1949 coalition that triumphed over the nationalist forces. The other three were the Army, the students, and the peasants.

"May Day" is also SOS for someone in distress, often heard on movie clip scenes where a group calls for assistance while under attack or in a state of adversity.

"Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains!" is an oft-quoted Karl Marx phrase that got a lot of mileage from the proletarian and Bolshevik revolutions of Europe, but combining that with peasant labor in China, the term "workers" got stigmatized by the capitalist west that traditionally favored the financial market over human capital, and when dealing with the workers, considers them as part of the socialist conspiracy. Labor Day in the U.S. is celebrated in September to distinguish it from the worldwide observance of May Day.

It is easy to be identified as anti-capitalist when showing one's self to be pro-worker. This is unfortunate for capital refers to the natural and human input, as much as the technological one (of which money is only one example, primarily created to facilitate a medium of exchange).

The United States latched on to oil and the automobile before WWII, the construction of the interstate highway and the production of war materials thereafter, to fuel the fires of its economy; since the '60s, added the creation of phantom wealth through financial services to rule the world. Former USAID official David Korten and his wife Frances (erstwhile of the Ford Foundation) strengthened their bite while chewing on development economics in the Philippines. David's latest reflection on an Agenda for a New Economy written since Obama's stimulus package, now in its second edition, is subtitled: "from phantom wealth to real wealth."

Having chronicled previously in *The Great Turning* the civilizing shifts occurring in our time, and the indictment on When Corporations Rule the World, Korten is prophetic as we watch the major corporations skip paying taxes through cover of off-shore accounts that hide their business practices. The reference to 'phantom wealth' also underscores the form of imperial colonialism we practice in foisting financial services across the world through our created stock market system where virtual value is made, and phantom wealth is created from the medium

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



of exchange that money represents. Check out their publication, *Yes Magazine*, 'for powerful ideas, practical actions'.

An Indonesian colleague once asked, "Why is it that the rubber shoes manufactured in Indonesia at less than \$10 is marketed in the malls of America at \$180? Where did the difference in monetary value go?"

President Reagan quipped: "There is no such thing as free lunch." That is an enshrined economic principle. Increase in value in one sector is paid for in another. Unfortunately, in the current unethical dichotomy of the 15 percent 'haves' lordling it over the 85 percent 'have-nots', the loss of monetary value in an economy is usually adjusted in favor of the controlling former at the expense of the latter. The situation has become so bad that the US government is now characterized as the "government of, for and by the 1 percent!"

Indeed, a year ago, the Supreme Court affirmed the civil rights of corporations, which is decried by many sectors, but one can also see other implications. If we vest rights to companies as if they have human personalities, why not vest the same to the rest of nature and all the animate and inanimate objects in it? We already have animal rights, clean air/water legislations; what would constitute nature's rights? MINA?

I grew my hair and failed to shave for a week once, and after walking my regular exercise route, I stopped by a Mom/Pop store to pick up some stuff. As I was taking my time to read manufacturer's labels (our Jamaican Walt's advice), a store watcher came over to ask if I needed help. I would have normally taken that as a good sign of customer service but in this instance, I felt more the watchful eye of the store cameras on my nape rather than a concern for my needs. When I brought my stuff with beer to the counter, the salesgirl informed me that I could not purchase the

See MAY DAY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's keeping Jordan calm?

While turmoil threatens the regimes of many of its neighbors, conditions in Jordan have remained relatively calm. Although we have had more than 150 protests across Jordan since before the fall of the Tunisian regime, all demanding accountability, better living conditions, and an end to corruption and wider political reform, nobody has called for regime change—so far.

The reason is simple. King Abdullah II, the current leader of the Hashemite dynasty, is the only unifying factor for all the different ethnic and sectarian groups in the country. If the Hashemites were toppled, there would be no Jordan as we know it today.

But that doesn't mean that I, like other Jordanians, would not like to see an end to corruption. I would also like to see the patriarchal tribal-based system replaced by accountable governance and a parliament fairly elected by the people. I also want to see a system based on meritocracy, equal rights for all Jordanians, judicial independence and a free media.

Over the last 10 years, corruption has become the number one problem for Jordanians, shaking public confidence in state institutions and the regime. It is perceived as being sanctioned by the highest levels of government, and many of the king's royal initiatives to improve the lot of Jordanians and to open up the economy to foreign

investors have been tainted by charges of graft.

Today, Jordanians want to see corrupt officials put on trial. Many officials around the king have been accused of corruption, dishonesty and of running Jordan like a private company. The last two parliamentary elections were widely perceived to have been rigged, and most governments have stayed in place just over a year.

King Abdullah II's reaction to the protests has helped. He sacked the prime minister who was viewed as part of the system of corrupt officials. He ordered certain taxes to be abolished, reduced some basic food prices and gave civil servants a pay raise. He has called for party political and parliamentary election reform and has shown openness to constitutional reforms that give parliament a wider political role.

A committee led by pro-reform Senate speaker Taher Masri, a respected Jordanian of Palestinian origin, has been appointed to study political reform. It should come out with its recommendations by the end of May.

But many Jordanians would like to see the king set out the reform process more clearly, with the final outcome being a constitutional monarchy.

To ensure long-term stability and security, the king will need to

By RANA SABBAGH

The Institute for War & Peace Reporting

Rana Sabbagh is a veteran Jordanian columnist and journalist who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a non-profit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.



sacrifice some close allies that are seen as corrupt, and introduce more democratic laws and meritocracy.

This may not be easy for a man who built his career in the army and is not a naturally born democrat.

But for now, at least, the regime is not viewed as the enemy of the people. It doesn't have blood on its hands. The royal family still enjoys widespread affection and respect.

Jordan has many things going in its favor, including a highly educated and relatively small population. A little economic investment could have a transformative effect.

Given what else is going on in the region, Jordan has a fighting chance of emerging as a transitional force in the Middle East.

Obama faces critical decision on Afghan troop withdrawal

President Obama must soon make a critical decision: how many and what type of U.S. forces to begin withdrawing from Afghanistan this summer. The July withdrawal date is an artificial deadline, one the president created not because it would help us reach our goals in this strategically critical country but for his own domestic political purposes. When Obama made the promise in 2009, at the same time he announced the surge in U.S. troops in Afghanistan, it was imprudent. The way he keeps it now could be downright dangerous.

However artificial the deadline, the way Obama treats it will signal whether he remains committed to defeating the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan, or whether he is simply looking for a way out of a conflict he neither fully understands nor supports. His decision will send a telling message to U.S. adversaries and friends alike around the world.

The plain fact is that the military situation inside Afghanistan is uncertain. Although there is an official U.S. mood of optimism, and no doubts about the military efficacy and valor of our troops, there are also disturbing and far more pessimistic reports. In February, for example, we withdrew units from northeastern Afghanistan's long-contested Pech Valley, transitioning to Afghan government forces, but we may have been too hasty. Ironically, one justification for the withdrawal was that our presence enhanced Taliban recruiting, but by April, after our withdrawal, al-Qaida units were back, establishing training and operating bases in the nearby Korengal Valley.

Repeated U.S. efforts to find members of the Taliban willing to negotiate have been largely unsuccessful and at times downright humiliating. Last year, a supposed Taliban leader and key negotiator was revealed as an imposter, but only after he had met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, received bags of NATO

money and disappeared, with depressing new sagas of U.S. incompetence.

Iran's influence in Afghanistan also remains strong, through its financing and arming of the Taliban, its control over critical oil supplies and its threats to expel more than 1 million Afghan refugees living in Iran, a humanitarian problem that could destabilize Afghanistan's fragile economy. Make no mistake, a large U.S. withdrawal this summer will be in effect pro-Iran.

An equally significant strategic issue is the impact of Obama's decision on Pakistan. Our relations with Pakistan have recently deteriorated. Pakistan's substantial arsenal of nuclear weapons remains the real prize, and the risk of the country falling into the hands of Islamic radicals remains grave. Military operations and cross-border strikes against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Pakistan are increasingly important to the task but could be jeopardized if Pakistan believes America is scuttling out of Afghanistan.

And yet the extent of the July withdrawal will likely depend on domestic American political factors, just as Obama's 2009 withdrawal announcement was a sop to his political base, to ease their pain with the surge. To Obama, the "conditions on the ground" that matter most have seemingly been the political conditions in America, not military conditions in Afghanistan.

Now that we are in a third war, in Libya, which even U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Michael G. Mullen concedes is stalemated, Obama may believe he must prove his antiwar credentials by ordering a very substantial Afghanistan withdrawal. The president does not want a primary challenge for the 2012 nomination; satisfying the Democratic left could considerably reduce that risk. By "declaring victory," Obama could explain a large drawdown, but he would be making a serious error of

By JOHN R. BOLTON

Los Angeles Times

John R. Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and the author of "Surrender Is Not an Option." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



military judgment.

Alternatively, the president may feel protected politically by NATO's agreement to hand over its mission to the Afghans in 2014, thus minimizing the need for substantial troop reductions this summer. But relying on that scripted time frame, rather than strategic considerations, merely creates another artificial deadline.

For the nation, the president's best course would be to protect and capitalize on the progress we have made by maintaining troop levels and offensive operations in Afghanistan until the job is done, whenever that is. Whether Obama will follow this course, or at least order only a token withdrawal to minimize the damage of his imprudent 2009 pledge, we will soon see.

There should be no mistake that a politically driven withdrawal of substantial U.S. forces will squander the victories won in Afghanistan since the 2009 surge. It will signal to the Taliban and al-Qaida that their long travail is nearing an end. And it will signal to radicals in Pakistan and elsewhere that they too can act against the U.S. ultimately with impunity. All of these results will endanger not just the United States but peace and security worldwide.

Letters to the Editor

Gas prices fixed again!

I can't help but notice that Mobil stations and Shell stations once again raised prices to exactly the same price within hours of each other. I can't help but notice that this kind of price fixing activity is illegal and is specifically prohibited by U.S. Anti Trust Law. The U.S. Department of Justice Anti Trust Division is tasked with enforcing these laws. I wonder where they are in their investigation of these two companies and the several different station owners and contract operators that violate these laws.

I don't care whether gas prices go up or go down. I don't care whether Shell and Mobil makes a lot of money, a little money or no money at all. I do care, however, when they illegally fix prices

in order to kill the competition that keeps businesses honest and provides the best products at the best prices to their customers.

I know the bureaucratic wheels sometimes turn slowly, but it has now been nearly two years since I turned this over to the New Case division of DoJ. Surely, that is enough time to finish on an open and shut case like this. The evidence stares out at every person on our islands, every day of their lives. A casual drive by shows precisely the same price for every brand, every station, every operator, every owner, every day. Coincidence? Not hardly.

Even with the sale of all the Shell stations to the Delgado fam-

ily did not stop the illegal price fixing. He just signed up as a new member of the Good Old Boy Petroleum Price Fixing Network I guess. It looks like business as usual for the gas monopolies... for now.

If the U.S. Department of Justice continues to drag its feet I will have to take these parties to court myself in the name of the People of the Commonwealth. This lawlessness cannot be allowed to continue.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres

17th CNMI Legislature

MAY DAY

From Page 6

alcoholic drink with food stamps!

Sabalu market used to be an item on my Saturdays. We sauntered into the area by the 4-H building and greet neighbors and

friends as we choose the farm produce in the market. We were not the monetized personality we are made to feel in the department and mom/pop stores, trailed by the ubiquitous store cameras in case we compromise our integrity with slipping an item or two under our jackets. Sometimes, the vendors know us by our name!

May Day is historically about workers; take it as human capital in the economic process. Perhaps, the continuing stagnation






of our visitors' industry is our failure to realize that tourists are ordinary folks with human names like Kenichi Nishimura, Kim In Sook, and Lv Miao Xu, rather than monetized units in our handheld counters to be herded and drained at every turn for their bloods' worth.

"Workers of the world unite; we have everything to gain in your human awakening!"

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Rain	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲90 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼78

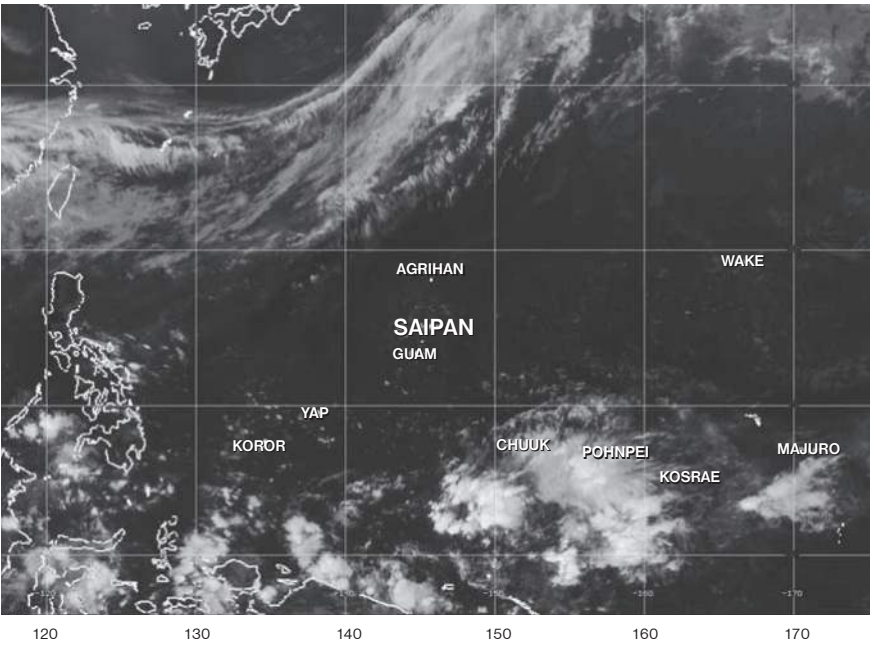
Around The Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲65 ▼60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲82 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76 ▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲62 ▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼72
New York	Sunny	▲67 ▼50
Osaka	Showers	▲65 ▼56
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼50
Pusan	Showers	▲67 ▼53
Rome	Rain	▲67 ▼54
Salem	Showers	▲57 ▼37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲64 ▼48
Tokyo	Showers	▲68 ▼60
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲69 ▼53

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N144E to beyond 130E at 18N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. An upper-level trough stretches southwestward from 23N180 to south of Yap at 5N140E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence south of the trough axis to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Yap and Koror or south of a line from 6N134E to 4N145E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 6N from 148E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers between Majuro and Butaritari atoll within 80 miles of a line 2N167E to 5N176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:35 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	4:11 AM	4:55 PM
Monday	4:49 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	5:29 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	7:26 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 21, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily, Departs at 6:05am effective June 1 DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:05pm 12:35am+1 Daily, Arrives at 12:45am effective June 1, 2011
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 1, 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Guam-Saipan	Flight Sector	ETD	ETA	Turn-around Time	Flytime Hrs	Dates
5K389		12:30	13:20	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam						
5K382		18:05	18:55	HK	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong						
5K168		14:20	17:30	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan						
5K169		10:00	17:05	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun
Mar. 28- May 22						
Guam-Saipan						
5K389		13:35	14:25	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam						
5K382		18:00	18:50	HKG	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong						
5K168		15:25	18:35	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan						
5K169		09:55	17:00	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisú Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisú FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com .			

Business

Asian markets sink on modest US economic growth

BANGKOK (AP)—Modest economic growth in the U.S. and mixed corporate earnings dampened stock market sentiment in Asia on Friday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down 0.4 percent to 23,805.63, with yuan shares of Hui Xian Real Estate Investment Trust falling 3.6 percent in their trading debut. They are the first shares denominated in China's currency to trade outside of mainland China.

South Korea's Kospi index slipped 0.6 percent to 2,194.54, with technology shares dragging the index DOWN.

Samsung Electronics lost 1.4 percent after the company announced its profit fell 30 percent in the first quarter on declines in memory chip prices and reduced profitability in liquid crystal displays and flat screen televisions. Rival Hynix Semiconductor Inc. slid 2.6 percent. LG Electronics lost 3.7 percent.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was off 0.9 percent to 4,827.40, with mining shares among the big losers. The world's biggest mining company, BHP Billiton Ltd., fell 1.1 percent. Shares in Rio Tinto Ltd. lost 1.5 percent.

Singapore's FTSE Straits Times Index was lower, while benchmarks in Taiwan, Indonesia, and New Zealand rose. On the Chinese mainland, the Shanghai Composite Index was flat at 2,885.90.

Japan's Nikkei 225 was closed for the start of Golden Week holiday.

On Wall Street, stocks closed at another 2011 high Thursday despite modest U.S. economic growth in the first quarter.

The U.S. economy grew a 1.8 percent annual rate between January and March. That's the weakest rate since last spring and underscores concerns about the strength of the U.S. recovery. Higher oil prices cut into consumer spending and bad weather slowed down construction projects.

The S&P 500 rose 4.82 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,360.48. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 72.35, or 0.6 percent, to 12,763.31. The Nasdaq composite gained 2.65, or 0.1 percent, to 2,872.53.

Corporate earnings were mixed. Procter & Gamble Co. rose nearly 1 percent after the maker of Tide detergent and Pampers diapers reported higher earnings but cut its forecast for the year due to rising costs for raw materials. Exxon Mobil Corp.—the world's largest publicly traded company—fell 0.5 percent even after the oil giant reported its best quarterly earnings since 2008—perhaps due to high expectations.

More people applied for unemployment benefits for the first time last week. The increase, the second in three weeks, suggests that the job market remains sluggish.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was down 40 cents to \$112.46 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$112.86 per barrel on the Nymex on Thursday.

Manufacturing in China ruffled by Japan disasters

SHANGHAI (AP)—Chinese manufacturers added workers but saw scant growth in orders in April amid delays in supplies resulting from Japan's earthquake and tsunami.

London-based HSBC said Friday its China Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index remained at 51.8 in April, matching its March level and just above a seven-month low of 51.7 in February. Figures above 50 signal expansion.

The survey, usually released on the first of the month, was reported early due to next week's May Day holiday in much of the region. A similar survey by the state-affiliated China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing is due next week.

The HSBC survey covers 400 companies and is adjusted for seasonal factors.

The report said manufacturers added new employees in April at the fastest rate since December but were reducing purchases as they adjusted to delays in deliveries from suppliers.

Damage from the March 11 disasters in northeastern Japan forced many factories in that region to shut down at least temporarily, hindering supplies of electronics and auto components especially hard.

But despite the slowing in demand, the continued expansion is a sign that authorities need to persist in efforts to cool inflation, said HSBC economist Hongbin Qu.

The survey's results "confirmed the picture of steady growth across the manufacturing sector. This, plus stronger-than-expected March growth and inflation data, calls for a continuation of Beijing's tightening efforts in the coming months," he said.

China's inflation rate surged to a 32-month high of 5.4 percent in March, driven by an 11.7 percent jump in food costs and surging prices for other commodities.

Nation

Tornadoes devastate South, killing at least 297

PLEASANT GROVE, Ala. (AP)—Firefighters searched one splintered pile after another for survivors Thursday, combing the remains of houses and neighborhoods pulverized by the nation's deadliest tornado outbreak in almost four decades. At least 297 people were killed across six states—more than two-thirds of them in Alabama, where large cities bore the half-mile-wide scars the twisters left behind.

The death toll from Wednesday's storms seems out of a bygone era, before Doppler radar and pinpoint satellite forecasts were around to warn communities of severe weather. Residents were told the tornadoes were coming up to 24 minutes ahead of time, but they were just too wide, too powerful and too locked onto populated areas to avoid a horrifying body count.

"These were the most intense supercell thunderstorms that I think anybody who was out there forecasting has ever seen," said meteorologist Greg Carbin at the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

"If you experienced a direct hit from one of these, you'd have to be in a reinforced room, storm shelter or underground" to survive, Carbin said.

The storms seemed to hug the interstate highways as they barreled along like runaway trucks, obliterating neighborhoods or even entire towns from Tuscaloosa to Bristol, Va. One family rode out the disaster in the basement of a funeral home, another by huddling in a tanning bed.

In Concord, a small town outside Birmingham that was ravaged by a tornado, Randy Guyton's family got a phone call from a friend warn-



Teacher Ginger Graham salvages books from a resource room at Plainview High School in Rainsville, Ala., Thursday, April, 28, 2011. A least 32 people died when a tornado struck Dekalb County Wednesday.

ing them to take cover. They rushed to the basement garage, piled into a Honda Ridgeline and listened to the roar as the twister devoured the house in seconds. Afterward, they saw daylight through the shards of their home and scrambled out.

"The whole house caved in on top of that car," he said. "Other than my boy screaming to the Lord to save us, being in that car is what saved us."

Son Justin remembers the dingy white cloud moving quickly toward

the house.

"To me it sounded like destruction," the 22-year-old said. "It was a mean, mean roar. It was awful."

At least three people died in a Pleasant Grove subdivision southwest of Birmingham, where residents trickled back Thursday to survey the damage. Greg Harrison's neighborhood was somehow unscathed, but he remains haunted by the wind, thunder and lightning as they built to a crescendo, then suddenly stopped.

"Sick is what I feel," he said. "This is what you see in Oklahoma and Kansas. Not here. Not in the South."

Giffords: A poignant presence, but out of view

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a sight many Americans would surely love to see: a recovering Rep. Gabrielle Giffords watching as her astronaut husband blasts off into space.

But it's unlikely they will see it. Giffords will attend Friday's space shuttle launch in Florida but watch in private, and her staff says there are no plans to release photos of her, though that could change.

Why is the congresswoman, whose recovery from catastrophic wounds has inspired so many, being kept out of public view?

First of all, it's long-standing NASA policy for all relatives at a shuttle launch. "It's just for privacy," said spokeswoman Nicole Cloutier-Lemasters at Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. "They are here in a private capacity."

Sometimes family members choose independently to make themselves available, she said, but most decide not to.

"They're not the spotlight," added

space center spokesman Allard Beutel. "They're not the public figure."

Of course, Giffords is a special case. There's extraordinary public interest in her progress since that horrific Jan. 8 assassination attempt in Tucson, Ariz., and in the simultaneous story of husband Mark Kelly's journey into space—a life-vs.-career dilemma like no other.

Details about Giffords' condition in the 3 1/2 months since she took a bullet to the head have been sparse. There have been no photos showing her face. A grainy video image purporting to show her slowly climbing stairs to board the plane for Florida earlier this week was the most visible and hopeful sign yet of her improvement.

Few would argue with a patient's right to privacy, even a public figure and officeholder like Giffords. But her neurosurgeon, Dr. Michael Lemole, added another dimension to the privacy argument when asked recently if it

wouldn't be beneficial for the public to see the effects of the shooting.

"I understand that would be useful to the public, but I also understand that a picture is worth a thousand words, and with those words would come rampant speculation," he told the Association of Health Care Journalists earlier this month. "If you release one picture, people start speculating on what you will or won't do, on what you can or can't do."

Lemole, of University Medical Center in Tucson, added that when he performs brain surgery, the patient may have a swollen eye at the beginning and a bruise at three months, and then, at six months, look like someone who never had brain surgery at all. "Perhaps the congresswoman, after all is said and done, after she recovers as well as she will, may release (photos) as sort of a retrospective documentary, and maybe that would be valuable," he said. But that, he made clear, lies well into the future.

Deadliest twisters

The tornadoes that ripped through the South on April 27 are among the worst tornado events in U.S. history. The 10 most deadly U.S. tornado events on record, by number of deaths:

March 18, 1925	Mo., Ill., Ind.	695
May 6, 1840	La., Miss.	317
April 27, 2011	Ala., Ga., Ky., Miss., Tenn., Va.	280*
May 27, 1896	Mo., Ill.	255
April 5, 1936	Miss.	216
April 6, 1936	Ga.	203
April 9, 1947	Texas, Kan., Okla.	181
April 24, 1908	La., Miss.	143
June 12, 1899	Wis.	117
June 8, 1953	Mich.	115

*As of 4:30 p.m. ET April 28

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Source: NOAA
Graphic: Pat Carr

In one stroke, a new Obama national security team

WASHINGTON (AP)—The reshuffled national security team President Barack Obama introduced on Thursday will be charged with fighting not only the overseas war in Afghanistan but also budget battles on the home front over Pentagon spending that has ballooned into a fat target for deficit hawks.

His own re-election campaign approaching, Obama turned to a cast of familiar and respected officials for the most sweeping reworking of his national security team since the opening weeks of his presidency. He invoked the political upheaval and violence roiling the Middle East, the nearly 10-year-old Afghan war and the hard cost-cutting decisions ahead as the country tries to reduce its crushing debt.

"Given the pivotal period that we're entering, I felt that it was absolutely critical that we had this team in place so that we can stay focused on our missions, maintain our momentum and keep our nation secure," Obama said at the White House.

In the biggest change, CIA Director Leon Panetta will replace Defense Secretary Robert Gates when Gates makes his long-planned exit this summer. In remarks introducing the Cabinet and Afghan war leaders,

Obama also bade farewell to Gates after a tenure begun more than four years ago under President George W. Bush.

Gen. David Petraeus, the high-profile commander of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, will replace Panetta at the CIA in the fall, after helping to manage the first steps of a drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan over the summer.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John Allen will succeed Petraeus as the top commander in Afghanistan, and seasoned diplomat Ryan Crocker will take over as ambassador there. The new team in Kabul will manage the planned shift toward a back-seat role for the United States and its NATO partners, as Afghan security forces gradually assume responsibility. Both Allen and Crocker have experience with a similar transition in Iraq, and with the effort there to broker deals with former militants and political rivals that U.S. officials want to mirror in Afghanistan.

"These are the leaders that I've chosen to help guide us through the difficult days ahead," Obama said in the White House East Room with Gates, Panetta, Petraeus and other top officials by his side.

ACROSS THE NATION

Convicted RFK assassin says girl manipulated him

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Convicted assassin Sirhan Sirhan was manipulated by a seductive girl in a mind control plot to shoot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and his bullets did not kill the presidential candidate, lawyers for Sirhan said in

new legal papers. The documents filed this week in federal court and obtained by The Associated Press detail extensive interviews with Sirhan during the past three years, some done while he was under hypnosis. The papers point to a mysterious girl in a polka-dot dress as the controller who led Sirhan to fire

a gun in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel. But the documents suggest a second person shot and killed Kennedy while using Sirhan as a diversion.

NYC couple who split house with wall get divorce

NEW YORK (AP)—A feuding

couple who built a wall through their house because neither husband nor wife would give it up were granted a divorce after six years and hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees. But the legal battles may not be over for Simon and Chana Taub, whom the media likened to Michael

Douglas and Kathleen Turner's warring spouses in the 1989 film "The War of the Roses." Chana Taub is unhappy with the judge's order to sell the divided Brooklyn house, plus two others, and split the proceeds with her soon-to-be ex-husband, said her lawyer, Neil Iovino. She plans to appeal.

Asia



In this April 24, 2011 file photo, a Japanese flag with a "cheer up" message tied on a crossover bridge flaps in the wind at an intersection in a tsunami-devastated area of Kesennuma port in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Disasters challenge plans to reinvent Japan Inc.

TOKYO (AP)—Before disaster struck, Japan's leaders were vowing to counter the prospect of long-term economic decline with a new spirit of engagement with the rest of the world. Freer trade and deeper economic ties could help re-energize an economy stifled by deflation and eclipsed in size by rising rival China and in vision by smaller, more dynamic countries such as neighboring South Korea.

Now, as Japan deals with the aftermath of triple calamities—earthquake, tsunami and nuclear reactor leaks - the considerable challenges of remaking the world's third-largest

economy have become even bigger and may take a backseat to reconstruction.

"Those who want to return to a more Keynesian, pump-priming and heavy government control of the economy will argue that this is the time to rebuild Japan and to use the government's leadership," said Michael Green, an analyst and Japan expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "The other side of the debate will say no, now is the time to build more market fundamentals and really put some dynamism and growth" into the economy.

Japan faces a massive recovery bill, already estimated as high as 25 trillion yen (\$305 billion), equivalent to the size of Greece's entire economy and that may get bigger. The tab could strain already overloaded government finances against the backdrop of one of the world's most rapidly aging societies.

Things weren't looking bright for Japan even before March 11, the day its northeast coast was struck by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and devastating tsunami, which crippled a nuclear power plant and led to the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years.

Thai, Cambodia clashes continue despite cease-fire

PHANOM DONGRAK, Thailand (AP)—A brief cease-fire between Thailand and Cambodia broke down Friday, shattering hopes for a quick end to the border conflict as the two sides exchanged fire for an eighth day and the death toll rose to 16.

Field commanders agreed to the truce in a meeting at the disputed border Thursday. But Cambodian Col. Suos So-

thea said the Thai army fired artillery shells into Cambodia again Friday and small arms fire crackled anew around the Ta Krabey temple, which lies in a disputed zone along the frontier.

"We cannot trust the Thais," he said. "Yesterday they said they'd stop fighting and now they are attacking us again."

Thai army spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd said

there had been light clashes late Thursday as well as early Friday. He blamed Cambodia for breaking the deal, saying its "local units might not agree to the talks as easily as their commanders did."

The director of Phanom Dongrak hospital, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the border, confirmed one Thai soldier was killed late Thursday, bringing the total dead to 16.

han were tourists from China. Dozens of people were injured in the mishap. During an inspection late Thursday, forestry expert Wang Ya-nan said the hole in the tree was hidden from sight, and that it toppled over at an unfortunate moment.

Gunman kills 3, wounds officer in Australia siege

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—A gunman killed three neighbors then shot a police officer in the face during a shootout and siege Friday in a normally sleepy Australian city, police said. The 39-year-old man surrendered to police after holing up in his house with an unknown number of weapons for more than seven hours in the South Australian state capital of Adelaide. Police commando unit officers found the bullet-ridden bodies of a woman and two men in a house next door to the man's suburban residence, Police Deputy Commissioner Gary Burn said. A teenager in the house was badly wounded in the shooting.

Termites blamed for fatal Taiwan train accident

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A forestry expert investigating a fatal rail accident in Taiwan says termites gnawed a large hole in a 100-year-old tree, causing it to fall and crush an oncoming narrow-gauge train. All of the five fatalities in Wednesday's accident near the mountain resort of Alis-

World

Gadhafi forces shell frontline city

MISRATA, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's forces shelled civilian areas in the rebel-held city of Misrata on Thursday, killing 10 people. Regime supporters and opponents battled on another front in western Libya for control of a crossing point along the Tunisian border, killing refugees as they fled.

Rockets and other artillery fire slammed into Misrata's western Garara neighborhood, sending up deadly showers of shrapnel. At the city's Hikma hospital, relatives shouting "God is great" collected the dead, each with the word "martyr" written in marker on their white funeral shrouds.

The two-month battle in Libya's third-largest city has killed hundreds and prompted dire warnings of a humanitarian crisis. Gadhafi's best trained forces are battling fiercely to try to uproot rebel fighters from their only major stronghold in the western half of Libya, which is home to the government's power centers and the capital, Tripoli.

"Everything was normal and nothing was going on, and then all of a sudden these missiles came down and exploded in our neighborhood," said 46-year-

old Ali al-Ghoul, who was leaving a mosque when eight rockets struck nearby, killing five of his neighbors.

The city's rebel fighters, most of them youths armed with captured weapons, pushed Gadhafi's forces from the city center this week, easing movement in a large swath of downtown that pro-government snipers had rendered deadly for over a month.

On Thursday, a rebel force of about 50 fighters advanced to the city's east, killing 14 government soldiers, said Misrata's rebel spokesman, Ibrahim Beateimal.

Still, the city is subjected to continuous shelling with rockets and other artillery by government forces on its edges.

Rebel forces are focused on holding their newly captured areas but are preparing to move on Gadhafi's positions farther out to stop the shelling, Beateimal said.

"All of these areas have to be cleaned out," he said.

In fighting along the Tunisian border, control of the Dehiba crossing point was switching between the two sides Thursday. Rebels seized it a week ago, and government forces trying to retake it fired Grad rockets, in-

Syria army units clash as crackdown intensifies

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian army units have clashed with each other over following President Bashar Assad's orders to crack down on protesters in Daraa, a besieged city at the heart of the uprising, witnesses and human rights groups said Thursday.

More than 450 people have been killed across Syria—about 100 in Daraa alone—and hundreds detained since the popular revolt against Assad began in mid-March, according to human rights groups.

While the troops' infighting in Daraa does not indicate any decisive splits in the military, it is significant because Assad's army has always been the regime's fiercest defender.

It is the latest sign that cracks—however small—are developing in Assad's base of support that would have been unimaginable just weeks ago. About 200 mostly low-level

members of Syria's ruling Baath Party have resigned over Assad's brutal crackdown.

Ausama Monajed, a spokesman for a group of opposition figures in Syria and abroad, said the clashes among the soldiers have been happening since Monday.

"There are some battalions that refused to open fire on the people," Monajed told The Associated Press, citing witnesses on the ground in Daraa, a city of 75,000 near the Jordanian border. "Battalions of the 5th Division were protecting people, and returned fire when they were subjected to attacks by the 4th Division."

The 4th Division is run by the president's brother, Maher.

The reports were corroborated by three witnesses in Daraa and an activist contacted by the AP. All four asked that their names not be used for fear of reprisals.

One of the witnesses said soldiers fired at each other Thurs-

day around the Omari mosque in central Daraa. He said the soldiers from the 5th division, composed mostly of conscripts known to be sympathetic to residents, were battling soldiers of the 4th Division.

"They are defending the people against the forces of Maher Assad," said the resident, who said he lived next to the mosque and witnessed the battles.

"Assad's forces have it in their heads that we are terrorists and extremist Muslims and they are out to get us," he said. "But the 5th Division are made up of people like us. We are speaking to them."

Another witness in Daraa told the AP that he saw soldiers from different army units clashing Monday in front of the Bilal mosque, when Syrian forces rolled into town. He said the battle between the forces lasted for several hours.

On Thursday, government troops shelled residential areas about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Misrata's downtown core.

"The shelling started around 9:30 this morning and has been sporadic during the day," said a doctor who spoke via Skype on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Poles joyful over beatification of John Paul II

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poles are already calling him John Paul the Great.

Across the heavily Roman Catholic country, the faithful are voicing joy and pride as Sunday's beatification of Polish-born Pope John Paul II draws closer.

Many pilgrims are boarding buses and trains for the roughly 30-hour journey to Rome for the ceremony, while many more are expected to fill squares in Warsaw, Krakow and his hometown of Wadowice to follow it on large video screens.

The atmosphere of celebration contrasts sharply with the

deep sense of mourning after John Paul died in 2005. At the time, black ribbons and packed churches were expressions of the widespread grief felt at the country's loss of its most respected moral authority and a figure credited with helping end communism.

Now many repeat a common refrain: that the beatification is largely a formality because they already consider their native son the holiest of men. Beatification is the last formal step before possible sainthood, and many in Poland hope that the fast beatification will be followed by a speedy canonization as well.

"For us, in fact, the Holy Father was already a saint during his lifetime, and after his death even more," said Ewa Filipiak, the mayor of Wadowice, the small town in southern Poland where Karol Wojtyla, the future pope, was born.

Warsaw Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz this week called the beatification a historic moment and predicted that the late pontiff will go down in history as "Pope John Paul II the Great."

Many Poles credit John Paul for his role in inspiring Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement, a catalyst in the toppling of communism in Poland.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 30, 2011



Fabian

'Dealing with Pinoy workers once umbrella permits expire is biggest challenge'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With the CNMI-only transitional worker regulations yet to be issued, newly designated welfare officer to the CNMI Julia Fabian said that the biggest challenge in her two-year term would be dealing with the Filipino workers once their umbrella permits expire by November 2011.

"It would really be challenging once these workers come to us for assistance and repatriation," said Fabian in an interview on Tuesday.

Fabian, who arrived on Saipan last April 13, replaced former welfare officer Rey Tayag whose two-year term ended on Feb. 1.

A native of Bulacan, Fabian is a licensed medical technologist and holds a master's degree in Business Administration.

Fabian has 29 years of experience working in the front line service of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration under the Department of Labor and Employment.

She worked as the officer-

in-charge of OWWA Regional Welfare Office IV-A, chief of the Programs and Services Division of the Regional Welfare Office IV-B, and the officer-in-charge of the Social Benefits Division of the Regional Welfare Office-National Capital Region.

Amid the uncertainty on the status of foreign workers in the CNMI, Fabian vowed to focus on the reintegration program of OWWA with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Philippine Consulate General Office.

"Our mandate is to provide

services and assist Filipino workers," said Fabian. "Also, the reintegration program is one of the key items under the 22-point agenda of our president."

Fabian said she will help facilitate the reintegration program to prepare Filipino workers in the CNMI for whatever scenario that may happen come November 2011.

"We want to encourage them to save for their future and start their own business out of their savings," said Fabian.

Fabian, whose initial overseas

assignment was in Milan, Italy from 2004 to 2007, said the situation of the Filipino workers in the CNMI differs from that of the Italian city.

"When you come to Milan as a tourist, you can be referred by other Filipinos to get a job unlike here in the CNMI where you have to have a work permit," she said.

Fabian, who arrived on island in time for the Holy Week celebration, had been able to go around different churches last Maundy Thursday, April 14.

She described the island

as beautiful, quiet, and a safe place to stay.

"Saipan is like an extension of the Philippines—I look around me and I see a lot of Filipinos," she added.

Fabian, who was welcomed in a small gathering when she arrived, will be formally introduced to the Filipino community on island during the Philippine Labor Day celebration on May 1.

252 graduate from POLO training courses

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A total of 252 Filipino workers graduated from the nine different training courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General Office and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office for the first quarter of 2011.

The training courses conducted were two batches of Basic Computer Operations 1 taught by Marcelo Masilungan and Jousel Regilme; Basic Nihongo by Leopoldo Rodriguez Jr.; Business Management on Aquaculture by Michael Ogo, Alejandro Badilles, Ignacio Banadera Jr., and Marlon Regaton; Meat Processing by Hermie Coronejo, Banadera, and Regaton; Sari-Sari Store by Eli Arago and Melvin Malvar; Basic English Developmental by Fe Calixterio; and Financial Literacy-Rota Outreach by labor representative Carmelina Velasquez.

Graduation ceremonies for the various classes were held as early as Feb. 19, with the last graduation conducted last April 10.

Velasquez, in an interview, said conducting these training courses is part of the reintegration program of the Philippine government for all Filipino workers in general.

"We want Filipino workers in the CNMI to know that there are various courses to learn from that would help them develop professionally and start their own businesses someday," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Velasquez said that some of these courses, such as Basic Computer Operations, have been offered by their office regularly through the years because of the continuing demand from Filipino workers on island.

The other courses, Velasquez said, came from the survey conducted during the National Reintegration Program for Overseas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aquaculture students go on field as they check out the locally grown fish in a hatchery. Aquaculture was one of nine training courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General Office and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office to CNMI nonresident workers during the first quarter of 2011.

Filipino Workers held on Dec. 29 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"These were the topics that the participants deem important to discuss in our business management seminars," she said.

The first three business management seminars were on aquaculture, meat processing, and sari-sari or convenience store.

For the second quarter of 2011, Velasquez said they will conduct the seminar on Internet and computer services or the Internet shop business which is popular in the Philippines.

"We really hope that more Filipino workers will avail of these free trainings to have a fallback should they be asked to go back home after November 2011," said Velasquez.

Velasquez added that the other popular businesses indicated by the survey respondents will be assimilated in future training schedules.

Bayan Muna to press plunder raps vs Arroyo

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The party-list group Bayan Muna Thursday said it would push for the prosecution of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for plunder, this time for her alleged role in the scuttled National Broadband Network contract with China's ZTE Corp. during her term.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares said the plunder complaint in connection with the controversial deal was filed by his group on July 1, 2010, or a day after Arroyo, now a representative of her home province of Pampanga, lost her immunity from suit.

Colmenares said the case



Arroyo

was filed in the Department of Justice but that the trial had not commenced until now.

"We've been pressing [Jus-

tice Secretary] Leila de Lima to conduct the preliminary investigation and not throw it to the Truth Commission," the lawmaker said.

"The case is part of our ongoing campaign against corruption and we will pursue this until Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts are held accountable and punished," he said.

The NBN-ZTE deal is one of the six articles of impeachment filed by the House of Representatives against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, an appointee of Arroyo.

Colmenares is part of the 11-member team of House prosecutors who will argue the case in the Senate, which will convene as an impeachment court on May 9.

Internet biz seminar to be offered at Consulate, POLO

» More Gabay sa Negosyo livelihood courses available

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A course on Business Management Seminar on Internet and Computer Services is among the skills upgrading and livelihood courses to be offered by the Philippine Consulate General through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez announced the May and June schedule for the free training courses.

"We want to encourage more Filipino workers on island to avail of our free training courses as part of our reintegration thrust," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The following courses will be offered:

- Basic Computer Operations 1 (Batch 52), eight Sundays from May 8 to June 26, 9am to 12pm, by Zaldy Quebral and Marilyn Quebral;
- Basic Computer Operations 2 (Batch 5),

eight Saturdays from May 7 to June 25, 12pm to 3pm, by Jousel Regilme;

■ Basic Computer Operations 2 (Batch 6), eight Sundays from May 8 to June 26, 2:30pm to 5:30pm, by Marcelo Masilungan;

■ Mandarin (Batch 1), seven Sundays from May 8 to June 26, 2:30pm to 5:30pm, by Rey Garcia; and

■ Business Management Seminar on Internet and Computer Services (Batch 1), May 28 and June 4, 8:30am to 12pm, by Marcelo Masilungan and BFC Group.

Interested applicants are required to bring upon registration their umbrella permit or work permit, Philippine passport, and one ID picture.

Registration for the said courses will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit POLO at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe or call 235-3411 or 235-6992.

Plunder raps to include labor secretary

By NIKKO DIZON, KRISTINE L. ALAVE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—With their signatures on the document that enabled the transfer of more than P530 million in overseas Filipino workers' funds to the government health insurance corporation, eight more people, including Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and one of her predecessors, Patricia Sto. Tomas, will be included in the plunder complaint filed by lawyer Frank Chavez against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Everybody's to be held accountable. You have to convince people that you mean business. You cannot be selective," Chavez, a former solicitor general, Thursday told the Inquirer by phone.

In another interview with the Inquirer, Chavez said the Commission on Audit should review its report on the fund transfer.

He said newly appointed COA Chair Grace Tan should refrain from citing the report stating that there was nothing irregular in the fund transfer.

"She should have quietly done a re-audit considering that the 2006 audit was done in an atmosphere controlled by the past administration," Chavez said on the phone.

He said Tan's statement was misleading and "painted me as a



Baldoz

stupid incompetent."

Chavez said he would include in his amended complaint-affidavit all the board members of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) who signed Board Resolution No. 005 dated Feb. 2, 2004.

But he added that he would file the amended document only in June because he would leave the country on May 3 and would be away for the entire month.

Sto. Tomas was the labor secretary and chair of the OWWA board of trustees when she signed the resolution "approving the transfer of P530,382,446 from OWWA Medicare funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp."

Baldoz was also then a board member, being the ad-

ministrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

She is willing to cooperate with authorities and testify on the matter should she be called by the justice department, according to President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"I understand from Secretary Baldoz that she will present a briefer to the President on what happened during those times when she was the POEA administrator. She will explain her situation at that time," Lacierda said.

On Tuesday, Chavez accused Arroyo, former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and former Health Secretary and PhilHealth president Francisco Duque III of plundering some P554 million worth of OWWA funds from March 2003 to February 2004.

He said the transferred P530-million OWWA Medicare fund was used by Arroyo to buy PhilHealth cards for distribution to boost her campaign in the 2004 presidential election.

He included former OWWA Administrator Virgilio Angelo, the former vice chair of the OWWA board of trustees, in the complaint-affidavit he filed in the justice department.

Going for the jugular

Chavez said he failed to include

Baldoz, Sto. Tomas and the others in the first complaint-affidavit because he "concentrated on the big ones."

"I thought at that point that I should go for the jugular right away," he said.

The other OWWA board members who signed the resolution enabling the fund transfer were then Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson; Mina Figueroa, a representative of the finance department; and representatives of various labor sectors—Caroline Rogge (management), Victorino Balais (labor), Gregorio Oca (sea-based sector), and Virginia Pasalo (women's sector).

Those who did not sign the resolution were then Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, then Assistant Budget Secretary Eduardo Opida, and Corazon Carsola, the representative of the land-based labor sector.

"I won't take issue with [Brillantes et al.] because they did not sign the board resolution. I will only go by what the document shows," Chavez said.

Transfer in 2005

At a news conference Thursday, Angelo and Duque maintained that the fund transfer was aboveboard and did not constitute plunder.

"It was a government-to-government transaction. It was all documented and transparent.

The statement quoted CIAC president Victor Jose Luciano as saying that the senators "were in the Philippines to look into the transformation of [Clark and Subic] into productive civilian use."

They were given a tour of the airport in Pampanga province which the U.S. military has been using since 1999 when war games between Philippine and U.S. forces resumed under the VFA.

Malacañang said President Benigno Aquino III did not talk with Inouye and Cochran, who visited the Palace early this week, about the possibility of the return of the U.S. military in Subic.

"I asked the President about that and he said they never talked about it," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

The Department of National Defense (DND) welcomed the prospect of the country hosting American military bases.

VFA allows US presence

By DJ YAP, MARLON RAMOS, ROBERT GONZAGA, TONETTE OREJAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Temporary U.S. presence in the country may be permitted, but the return of American military bases in the Philippines is "not possible" under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

"The RP-US VFA allows temporary U.S. presence in the Philippines, as long as pre-approved by the Philippine government," DFA spokesperson Eduardo Malaya said on Thursday.

Under the VFA, American soldiers already make periodic visits to Subic and other places for joint military exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines or for other purposes,

including rest and recreation, Malaya said.

"Let it be noted though that the VFA does not allow a possible return of a foreign military base in the country," Malaya said in a text message.

Malaya noted that the U.S. had "repeatedly stated it is not interested in establishing military bases in the Philippines."

The DFA was reacting to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* story suggesting the possibility of a return of U.S. military presence to Subic, a former naval base, in the wake of disasters that hit Japan, causing a delay in the planned U.S. military buildup in Guam. Residents of Okinawa, Japan, oppose the presence of U.S. bases on the island.

Recent visits by American government officials to Subic have raised the prospect of the return U.S. military pres-

ence at the former American naval base.

Last month, U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. briefed local officials about the impact of the 9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on the transfer of U.S. military bases from Okinawa to Guam.

On Tuesday, two American senators met with officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Olongapo City, raising the prospect of the Americans' return to Subic 20 years after the Philippine Senate rejected a treaty extending the stay of U.S. military bases in the country.

U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Thad Cochran also visited on Tuesday Clark's Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, once the U.S. Air Force's largest air base in the Asia-Pacific, the state-owned Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) said in a statement Thursday.

Ombudsman Gutierrez resigns, DILG exec confirms

By TETCH TORRES, MARLON RAMOS, JAEMIE QUINTO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez has resigned, according to sources at the Office of Political Affairs in Malacañang and which Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo confirmed.

The sources, who requested anonymity because they are

not authorized to talk to media, said Gutierrez submitted her resignation letter to President Benigno Aquino III at about 10 a.m. Friday.

The same sources said Gutierrez's resignation is effective May 6.

Robredo confirmed Gutierrez's resignation to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* in a text message, which said, "Gutierrez went to President Aquino at his

office this morning and personally submitted her resignation, which the President accepted."

"She's on her way now to formally inform her staff and then announce it to the media. Thereafter, the President will make a statement," he added.

Another member of the Cabinet sent a similar text to the Inquirer but asked not to be identified.

Gutierrez is facing impeach-

ment charges for, among others, alleged neglect of duty in failing to act on the criminal and administrative cases filed primarily against former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and husband, Jose Miguel.

Gutierrez will hold a press conference later on Friday and speculation is rife that she will announce her resignation.

Mr. Aquino is also expected to announce Gutierrez's resignation.

There is no issue of plunder," Angelo said, adding that the fund transfer was approved by the OWWA board.

Duque said the justice department then also backed the transaction.

He said the money was not used for electioneering and was based on executive orders issued by Arroyo. He also said the fund was sent to PhilHealth in 2005, and presented checks showing that the fund was transferred in March and April 2005.

The two men pointed out that in its 2006 report, the COA found nothing irregular in the fund transfer.

Angelo said the fund was given to PhilHealth because

the OWWA did not have the capacity and the personnel to administer government health insurance.

"It was not OWWA's strength," Angelo said. "PhilHealth has the infrastructure and the relationship with doctors and hospitals to administer insurance."

Angelo said he was confident that the money did not benefit public or private individuals because it was placed in a trust fund.

"Definitely, nobody benefited from this. It was all documented," he said.

Duque said it was "impossible" for the fund to be used by external parties.

Lacson readies 'bawl' of anomalies

By CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It looks like former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will also have to contend in court with her archenemy, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

A day after former Solicitor General Frank Chavez filed a plunder case against Arroyo, Lacson said he was looking into the possibility of filing a case against her, saying this was one way of supporting the Aquino administration's fight against corruption.

For one, he said Wednesday he still has documents in his "bawl" (trunk) that detailed certain anomalies committed during Arroyo's nine years in office and that he intended to review them before Congress resumes its sessions next month.

On top of that, he said some

former government employees had contacted him to say they wanted to give him "additional documents."

These employees apparently had access to some documents, according to the senator.

Speaking to reporters after attending the inauguration of a new expressway in Cavite with President Benigno Aquino III, Lacson said he expected some people to come "out of the woodwork" now and reveal alleged anomalies in the Arroyo administration.

He said it looked like only plunder charges could be filed against Arroyo because the purported irregularities involved amounts higher than P50 million.

"It's about time she explained to the people what happened and why there were many anomalies in her administration. Juan de la Cruz deserves an explanation or two from her," Lacson said.

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AFP: No plans to have Camp Aguinaldo declared historical site

By DONA PAZZIBUGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Armed Forces of the Philippines has no plans for now to have its headquarters Camp Aguinaldo similarly declared a national historical site like the nearby Philippine National Police headquarters Camp Crame.

Declaring Camp Aguinaldo a national historical site would impact on any

plans by the national government to privatize or commercialize parts of the 178-hectare camp in Quezon City to raise funds to modernize the military.

"It's actually a good thing but we have no plans for that right now," AFP spokesman Commodore Miguel Rodriguez told reporters Tuesday.

Rodriguez, the AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operations (J7), said they are well aware that declaring Camp Aguinaldo a historical site would

give the National Historical Commission a say about future plans to make other use of parts of the camp.

"If it becomes a historical site, the NHC would have a say," he said.

On Monday the 32-hectare Camp Crame was formally declared a historical site for its role in the 1986 People Power revolt that brought down the 20-year Marcos dictatorship without bloodshed.

Rebel soldiers led by then defense minister now Senator Juan Ponce En-

rile and military vice chief of staff now former President Fidel Ramos defected from the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in Camp Aguinaldo on Feb. 22, 1986.

Then they transferred to Camp Crame where they were shielded by thousands of ordinary citizens from any attack from forces loyal to the late dictator, who was forced to flee the country on Feb. 25, 1986. National Historical Commission executive director Ludovico Badoy said places considered as histori-

cal sites could not be easily sold by the government for other use.

Earlier AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. said they are pursuing plans to have a central military headquarters by moving the headquarters of the Army, Navy and Air Force into Camp Aguinaldo.

He said having a single military headquarters will be more efficient.

Oban said they are not discussing the possible sale of Camp Aguinaldo.



RAINBOW OF REFRESHMENTS

A man selling fruit drinks in cylinders under his colorful umbrella as he waits for customers Wednesday, April 27, 2011 in Manila, Philippines.

Capiz teen gives birth to quadruplets

By FELIPE V. CELINO
INQUIRER VISAYAS

ROXAS CITY, Philippines—A 17-year-old girl from this city prematurely gave birth to quadruplets Sunday evening in a government hospital in Iloilo City.

Rigievie Baes, who was on her seventh month of pregnancy, delivered four male infants via Caesarean section at the Western Visayas Medical Center in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. The third quadruplet, however, died Monday afternoon due to a heart problem.

In an interview Tuesday morning Rigievie's father, Edgar Baes, said she was first brought to Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital Friday evening.

Edgar said the family had decided that Rigievie undergo an ultrasound to find out why her womb was large. The ultrasound first indicated she carried triplets.

Edgar said the attending doctor requested the family to bring the patient to Iloilo City because RMPH did not have an incubator to meet the needs of the newborn babies.

Arnie Desales, aunt of 18-year-old Jomard Castro, Rigievie's live-in partner, said she traveled with the expectant mother from Roxas City to Iloilo City.

Desales said the family was surprised when Rigievie gave birth to four infants instead of three as seen earlier on the ultrasound. Three of the babies weighed one kilo each and the third was about 0.9 kilo.

Desales confirmed that heartbeat of the third infant was weak.

The dead baby was brought Monday afternoon to the house of Romeo Dordas, Jomard's grandfather, in Barangay Lawaan, Roxas City.

Doctors at the WVMC declared Rigievie and the three other babies in stable condition.

Also on Monday, Roxas City Mayor Angel Alan Celino instructed city administrator Gilbert Tan to oversee and assist the needs of the girl and her premature babies.

Tan went to Iloilo City to give the financial assistance of the mayor, who was on official travel in Macau. He told reporters here that the city government would shoulder the hospital bills of Rigievie and her newborn sons.

Tan added that part of the mayor's salary would be given for infant formula and for other needs of the babies. Jomard would also be given a job at the City Hall, Tan added.

Pangasinan wigmakers feel impact of Japan disasters

By YOLANDA SOTELO
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

ALAMINOS CITY, Philippines—When the magnitude 9 earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11, a quiet coastal village in this western Pangasinan city also felt the impact.

Apolonia Bacay, who runs a branch of the Legazpi City-based Bicol Wig Makers Cooperative in Barangay Lucap here, says that after the tsunami hit Japan, orders for wigs sold in beauty parlors in Japan went down to just a few pieces a week.

But the business—like Japan—is recovering as seen in the steady increase in product orders since the disaster struck.

"Japanese women love wigs. These are part of their wardrobe," says Bacay.

It is this love for hairpieces by Japanese women that keeps some 100 workers from Alaminos and other towns busy. The workers are mostly mothers, out-of-school youth and unemployed adults.

"The wigs are custom-made, ordered by clients of beauty parlors in Japan. So each one is different," Bacay says.

She transformed part of the family's yard in Sitio Galiz in Lucap into a production area of Bicol Wig Makers.

The wigs' styles and colors show the difference between Filipino women and Japanese when it comes to hair-styles, Bacay says.

For instance, while most Filipinas like sleek, straight hair, Japanese women prefer curly and wavy locks.

"We hardly get orders for straight hair. It is always curly, but some have more curls than the others," says Alma Velardo, 39.

Velardo is in charge of quality control and checks each piece produced by the shop.

Another difference is that while most Filipino women hide their gray hair with various colors, some Japanese women order wigs with white hair strands.

"We put white hair depending on the pattern they give. Sometimes, white hair strands total 5 percent of the hair cover; sometimes it's 25 percent," Velardo says.

Workers are given a week to finish a hairpiece, Bacay says.

But small pieces, with just a few strands of hair, can be finished in three days, depending on the hours spent on

them and the speed of a worker assigned to do it.

Each hairpiece fetches between P800 and P1,600 for workers, depending on size and number of knots.

The production of hairpieces goes through a long process, Velardo says.

When the materials—pattern, hair (human or synthetic hair), caps and nets—arrive, each piece is assigned to workers called "ventilators," who "plant" the hair into the caps shaped according to the customers' head contour.

They are assisted by "line leaders" who ensure that the wigs are done right. The ventilators plant hair on caps, following the number of hair required for a square centimeter, and the style specified by customers.

How long a piece can be finished depends on the size of the cap and thickness or density of hair.

The wig then goes to quality control for checking if the density is correct, the number of white strands, as specified, is correct, and the puyo (crown) or the direction of hair is accurate.

The wigs are then delivered to a Japanese company, Art Nature Manufacturing Philippines, where these are shampooed, conditioned, trimmed and

styled and go under another quality control process. After that, the pieces are shipped to Japan.

Bacay says the business started in this city in November last year. It is a branch of the Bicol Wig Makers Cooperative, which is headed by her sister-in-law, Dianne Fabros.

It was Fabros who encouraged Bacay to put up a branch in Alaminos City, sending personnel here to train workers.

The branch has 60 regular ventilators, two line leaders and one quality control worker. At least 40 others come when there are big job orders.

The wig-making venture is a big help to the residents of the fishing village, employing mothers and jobless adults who have plenty of idle time, Bacay says.

One of them is Chona Rapayrapay, 32, a mother of three children. Since her husband is a part-time construction worker, Rapayrapay says the money she earns making wigs is a big help in sustaining the family's needs.

Lawrence Lavanera, 15, could hardly contain his joy when he received P1,000 for a seven-day work on a hairpiece, his first to earn such an amount.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Charice to sing at Pacquiao bout

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It's a case of good timing: Filipina international pop star Charice will be able to take a short break from shooting the Hollywood movie "Here Comes the Boom" in Los Angeles to go to Las Vegas and sing the Philippine National Anthem for the Manny Pacquiao-Shane Mosley boxing fight on May 7.

Grace Mendoza, Charice's Philippine manager, told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* that it was indeed good timing since the 18-year-old singer is currently in LA to work on the film. Mendoza added that Charice's handlers in the United States will issue an official statement shortly.

It was her countryman Pacquiao himself—the world's best pound-for-pound boxer—who reportedly handpicked Charice to sing "Lupang Hinirang" when he defends his World Boxing Organization (WBO) Welterweight title against the California-born Mosley, a former World Boxing Association (WBA) Welterweight Super champion.

"Thank you Sir Manny Pacquiao for choosing me to sing the Philippine Nat'l Anthem for your fight. Feel really blessed," said Charice on her Twitter page a few hours ago, confirming rumors on the Internet about her coming singing stint.

The prestigious spot num-



Charice

ber, though less than two minutes long, will be seen by millions of people worldwide via satellite.

Charice previously sang the National Anthem for President Benigno Aquino III's inaugural in June 2010 at the Quirino Grandstand of Rizal Park in Manila.

The job of singing "Lupang Hinirang" for Pacquiao comes after a recent series of high-profile media coverage for the 18-year-old Charice. Aside from landing a role as herself in the movie "Here Comes the Boom" which stars Salma Hayek, the Filipina singing sensation had just made her second appearance on the popular American TV series "Glee."

She had likewise recorded "Before It Explodes," the first single from her coming second studio album, which was written and produced by the Grammy Award-winning Filipino-American singer-songwriter Bruno Mars. The song had its worldwide release last week.

DZIQ: Revillame is 'principal player' in child abuse case, says DSWD

MANILA, Philippines—Television host Willie Revillame is the "principal player" in the child abuse incident that happened on his game show last month, Department of Social Welfare and Development spokesperson Atty. Nancy Quimpo said Thursday.

In a Radyo Inquirer interview, Quimpo clarified why Revillame was singled out as the only respondent in the complaint that the DSWD filed Wednesday at the

Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

"Si Mr. Revillame ang may malinaw na panghihiya at pangkukutya sa bata [Mr. Revillame was the one who clearly humiliated and ridiculed the child], Quimpo said.

The DSWD filed a child abuse case against Revillame over the incident where a boy who was in tears was made to gyrate like a "macho dancer" on his TV5 game show "Willie."

Dancing boy's parents file raps vs psychologist, writers

By **Julie M. Aurelio**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The parents of six-year-old boy who tearfully did a sexy macho dance on a TV5 game show have filed child abuse charges against a psychologist and two

writers who said the child was a victim of child abuse.

In a 13-page complaint, Joe and Diane Suan lodged charges against psychologist Dr. Honey Carandang and writers Froilan Grate and John Silva Tuesday morning in the Quezon City prosecutors' office.

AJ's final show

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHILE mourning her son's sudden passing, Marivic Sarte-Perez has something to look forward to: AJ's last TV appearance—on the ABS-CBN drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya"—which airs tomorrow.

"The entire family will watch it together," she told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on Monday, the eve of AJ's burial. (The 18-year-old died in a road accident in Tarlac on April 17.)

AJ shot some scenes of the drama series in his mom's hometown, Legazpi, Albay.

Happy with work

"He told me they had traveled from Laguna to the edge of Luzon," Marivic recalled. "He was happy that his job took him to many places."

In the MMK episode, AJ plays an impoverished boy who walks from Manila to Samar with his younger brother (played by Bugoy Cariño).

"I'm sure he was able to

relate to the character," said Marivic. "AJ was very close to his younger brother (Gelo, 12)."

"To think they're from so-called rival schools. AJ was from La Salle; Gelo is from Ateneo. Still, they were buddies. AJ was a loving and playful kuya. He never let the age gap get in the way of their friendship," Marivic related.

Needless to say, she and husband Gerry have had to guide Gelo through this ordeal.

"We explained to Gelo ... that he has to be strong ... His Kuya AJ wouldn't be pleased if he were sad. It wasn't hard for Gelo to understand that our family should be united at this time, to better help each other through this crisis."

She doesn't think Gelo would follow AJ in show biz, though: "He has different interests."

AJ's friends from the biz are also helping the Perezes cope.

Judy Ann Santos, who played AJ's big sister in the movies "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" and "Sakal, Sakali Saklolo," remembered AJ as a "respectful



AJ Perez

and quiet kid."

"Whenever we were in the studio, he'd go out of his way to greet me," Santos recounted. "He was one teenager who knew the meaning of courtesy. I wish he could be around much longer, to influence his peers."

Janus del Prado, fellow Star Magic talent, said: "He was fun to work with." Another Kapamilya, Jed Montero, noted: "AJ was a big kid and a little brother to me."

"He was accommodating. He agreed to host my niece's debut," said comedian John Lopus.

Kind words from friends and colleagues help the family tre-

mendously, said AJ's mom.

"We are so proud of him still," she said. "Whether as a student or an actor, people have good memories of him."

Famous visitor

Marivic also felt elated seeing fans at his wake in La Salle Green Hills and Christ the King Church. Even President Benigno Aquino III dropped by on the last night of the wake.

"I'm certain AJ would've been glad to see the President—and everyone—there," she said.

And knowing how generous AJ had been, his family thought it wise to donate his corneas to the Eye Bank on his behalf.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Funny girl, after the storm

By **MARINEL R. CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

More than a year after the "Ondoy" storm tragedy which destroyed most of her possessions, comedienne Janna Dominguez is on the road to recovery.

"When I saw flood rising up to my chest, all I could think about was the safety of my younger siblings. I didn't think about saving my clothes or my Louis Vuittons," Janna told Living Stars when we visited the family home in Antipolo, Rizal.

Janna—Jamie Anne Angeles in real life—recalled that when they fled to safer ground, she could only bring her wallet, piggy bank and a bag of rice.

The Angeleses were living in a two-story house in Pasig City when "Ondoy" ravaged Metro Manila in September 2009.

"I'm just starting to rebuild my wardrobe," said the host of "May Tamang Balita" on GNTV 11.

Bags

My Chanel clutches are "Ondoy" survivors. So is my Louis Vuitton (multi-colored monogram) bag, a gift from my stepmom for my 19th birthday. Look closely and you'll see mud stains.

A recent purchase is the Birkin. I don't get to use it much because I just bought a Hermes Her bag.

I got an H&M clutch during my trip to Japan last year. It reminds me of Harajuku Girls. The Calvin Klein postman bag

is also a favorite. It's perfect for out-of-town pictorials.

The fuchsia trolley in patent leather is also from Japan.

Shoes

I'm having a garage sale soon. The pair of high-heeled shoes from Aldo is also an "Ondoy" survivor. My current favorite pair is what I call my Lady Gaga shoes from Balenciaga.

The strapped heels from Louis Vuitton has a matching pair of rubber shoes, bag and wallet. I also have a pair of LV flats in fuchsia. They're very comfortable.

I have two pairs of Tory Burch flats, which I bought in Singapore.

I like shoes in bright colors, like the turquoise pair from Ate Carmina's (Villaruel) online store Muñiz.

The pair of heeled slip-ons from The Pleasure Place in Thailand is really unique because of the flower designs on the soles.

Clothes

I plan to sell all my "pre-Ondoy" clothes at the garage sale, but not the mini-dress from Balenciaga. It's very sexy but can also be worn at semi-formal events. It reminds me of Angelina Jolie.

The empire-cut turquoise dress is memorable. I wore it when I was launched as one of the contenders in "Pinoy Fear Factor" 2008. The cocktail dress was what I wore at my sister's debut party. It's inspired by what Amy Adams wore in the

movie, "Enchanted."

I hardly wear pants, but the pair of skinny jeans from Acne is my favorite; it makes my legs look long.

Cosmetics

I'm just finishing up those that I was able to save from the flood. I use Mac's Boy Girl for my eyebrows, Smash Box's concealer and eyeliner and Maybelline's mascara (Volume Expert).

I like the eye shadow palettes of Motives by Lauren Ridinger. Kim Kardashian uses them. I also go for the peach-colored blush of Cover Girl. I plan to buy some items from Nars because my friend, a makeup artist, said they look good on TV.

Books

I like "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks, "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho and "Artemis Fowl" by Eoin Colfer. I collect the "Twilight" series by Stephanie Meyer and "Blue Bloods" by Filipino writer Melissa de la Cruz. For a time I was obsessed with Bob Ong books. I also have a complete set of Manix Abrera's Kiko Machine Comics. I think he's a genius.

DVDs and CDs

GMA 7 recently released the DVD versions of "Endless Love" and "Pepito Manaloto" (where I'm a regular cast member), so I bought my own copies. Extremes ako—my favorites are "The Godfather" and the "Hell Raiser" series. I also like "The Book of Eli" and "Harold and Kumar."

Scents

For formal events dapat sexy scent, so I use Bulgari Amethyst or Green Jade. For casual events or a trip to the mall, I just use colognes like Jo Malone's nectarine blossom and honey scent.

I'm into men's perfume, too. I like the smell of Bulgari Extreme and Creed. I think No. 3 by Dolce & Gabbana can be used by both sexes.

I also have Lancome's Hypnose, and Viktor & Rolf, which I bought because of its cute bottle, and Gwen Stefani's Harajuku Lover's Fragrance, a souvenir from Japan.

Accessories

The bracelet with a heart locket was a Christmas gift from (actress-dancer) Rochelle Pangilinan.

I'm really into watches. I buy them, like the Hermes pieces, as investments. My favorite brand is Glam Rock. I also have pieces from Philip Stein and Patek Philippe for formal occasions. Technomarine is perfect for the summer because it's waterproof. I also like the cool designs of Tendence watches.

Swim wear

I bought a lot of swimsuits recently. I used them when we taped for "Pepito Manoloto" in Cebu for four days. I was also in the cast of "Bubble Gang" that went to La Union. (the summer special airs on GMA 7 in May) My favorite is the blue polka dot bikini that I got from The Ramp. It's inspired by one of the bikinis Katy Perry wore in her videos.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Rx

Over the past several weeks, I've heard these arguments against the RH bill. None of them finds its mark.

The first is that the RH bill won't solve poverty.

Of course it won't. Not by itself anyway. What bill or measure will solve poverty? Not land reform, not environmental protection, not government subsidy for food production. Not by themselves anyway. That is not an excuse to drop land reform, protecting the environment, and giving farmers enough to live on. Taken singly, they can, and do, help to push back poverty. Taken collectively, they can, and do, help mightily to push back poverty.

The same is true of the RH bill. Taken singly, it can, and will, help to push back poverty. Taken along with other things, it can, and will, help mightily to push back poverty.

EDITORIAL

Oily week?

It must have been on the minds of many even before TV news anchor Jessica Soho said it on her new program, "State of the Nation," because when she did say it, and the story about it circulated, the news came to many harassed consumers with the shock of familiarity.

In the Philippines, she said, citing records of the last six years, oil prices go up during the Holy Week. She then asked whether this regular phenomenon, which happens to coincide with that time of the year when many Filipinos take to the road, was due to "natural forces, economic forces or plain and simple pananamantala [abuse]."

We think the question—let's call it the "Oily Week" scenario—deserves a closer look, and a more robust, more logically rigorous response from the Department of Energy. Let's begin with the record (culled mainly from the DOE's own files).

There is no dispute that, just before the onset of the heaviest days of Holy Week travel this year, oil prices went up, and that after Easter, oil prices went down again.

Last week, on Holy Wednesday (April 20), the oil companies increased gasoline prices by 60 centavos and diesel by 25 centavos per liter. As the Department of Energy duly noted, in its regular oil monitor, the average Dubai crude price had increased by \$1.20 per barrel week-on-week. This, plus "the lingering worries about the Libyan conflict remained weighing on the market as prices again lifted by the end of the week. On the average, Dubai crude and gasoline increased by more than one dollar; diesel also lifted by about half a dollar compared to previous week." Given this scenario, oil companies in the Philippines had no choice but to raise their prices too. (Let us set aside, for now, the question whether the increase in prices here was commensurate with the rise in the Dubai price.)

After Holy Week, however, the oil companies initiated a rollback.

Did the same thing happen last year? The record for 2010 does not seem to bear out the "Oily Week" scenario. On Holy Tuesday 2010 (March 30), oil companies decreased both gasoline and diesel prices by 25 centavos per liter. (They also implemented a similar 25-centavo decrease the week before.) After Holy Week last year, however, the oil firms raised prices again, by 50 centavos per liter (effectively wiping out the consumer's gains of the preceding two weeks).

Is there nothing, then, to the "Oily Week" scenario? A look at the record for 2009 suggests the matter isn't cut-and-dried.

On April 10, Good Friday, the calculated average of unleaded gasoline was P38.46, while that of diesel was P30.75, per liter. This was a P1.50 increase in the price of unleaded gasoline from the previous Friday, and a whopping P2.80 increase in the price of diesel. A week later, on Friday of the first week of Easter, the calculated average in the price of gasoline went down by 50 centavos per liter, and that of diesel by P1 per liter.

In other words, the same pattern Soho alleged, of a spike in prices before hundreds of thousands of motorists head out to the provinces, and a rollback the week after, seems to be present.

The year 2008 is what may be called an outlier, because that was the time oil prices rose steadily from March to August and reached their record highs. The record for 2007 seems to support only half of the scenario: Prices of both gasoline and diesel were increased by 50 centavos per liter the week before Holy Week, and then were increased again, by another 50 centavos, the week after.

What do these figures reveal? That the traditional means of justifying price increases (exemplified in the DOE's weekly oil monitor reports) does not explain enough.

Prices go up or down because of outside influences: the international market, or political tensions in the Middle East, or a civil war in North Africa. Nothing is said about local market conditions. But is it really possible to imagine a business environment where a massive spike in oil consumption does not figure in business calculations?

A little more candor, from both the oil companies who raised their prices before Holy Week four years in the last five, and from the DOE, is called for.

Philippine Daily Inquirer ©

Variations on the theme include: One, what matters is not the size of the population but the distribution of wealth. Two, limiting the size of the population is counterproductive because a country's real wealth is its people.

Well, China is one country that has redistributed its wealth more resolutely than others, but it still feels the need to limit its population. For good reason: Limiting population and redistributing wealth are not opposed. They go together. There's just no way even a well-intentioned government can feed a runaway population, never mind distribute wealth. China is the second richest country in the world after the US, but it still maintains—arguably draconian—a policy of one couple, one child. RH is nowhere near that.

As to the people being a country's wealth, yes and no. Depends on the quantity and quality of the people. This is a case where more is less. You have a teeming mass of uneducated people, you don't have an asset, you have a liability. You don't have inducement to creativity, you have an invitation to criminality. While at this, the people who say this should stay at least a day in Payatas or a squatter area anywhere in Metro Manila so they can have an insight into the meaning of wealth and poverty.

The second is that contraception kills, producing a host of unborn children.

That one really takes the cake. RH is not abortion. President Benigno Aquino III has been absolutely clear on that. Edcel Lagman has been absolutely clear on that. The supporters of RH have been absolutely clear on that.

Using a condom no more produces an unborn child than sleeping produces an unborn masterpiece. An unborn child does not exist. It is no more real than an unborn thought, an unborn romance, an unborn heroism. You want to light a candle on the grave of the child that "died" from contraception, feel free to do so. But don't include others in your lunacy.

You want to have an idea of life and death, again go visit the teeming mass huddled inside cardboard boxes that pass for shelter beside the mountains of trash and jutting over dead creeks and rivers. And see what that does to very real, very tangible, very born children.

The third is that contraception is ineffective anyway. It's just using taxpayers' money for something that doesn't really bring down the population.

Well, land reform hasn't worked famously either, but that's no reason to throw it away. Economic planning hasn't worked famously either, but that is no reason to throw it away. Even marriage hasn't worked

famously either, but that's no reason to throw it away—although some will want to make a case for it.

I don't know that contraception drives haven't worked in most parts of the world. I do know they have met with all sorts of problems in societies like ours, not least the opposition of religious fundamentalists. That is quite apart from bureaucratic bumbling, or corruption.

If so, then the problem is not the conception, it is the implementation. The solution is not for government to forget the campaign, it is for government to push it more vigorously. The solution is not for government to spend less for it, it is to make every peso count.

The RH bill cannot guarantee that the population will decrease dramatically anytime soon. That is so for reasons that go beyond the opposition of the Catholic Church or bureaucratic baggage. That is so for reasons of culture. What the RH bill will really be up against is a culture that puts a premium on huge families.

Part of that owes to machismo. This is a macho culture, one given to men drinking themselves to a stupor, engaging in knife fights, and boasting not just about conquests but about how many children they've fathered. Not being able to accomplish the last leaves

one open to barbs about having a broken pipe, or butas ang tambutso. Not surprisingly, the preferred gender of the children is male. Having a brood of females is pambayad ng utang, payment for the women one made to weep.

But the other part of it owes to the very poverty that runaway population spawns, which makes it a vicious cycle. The most popular, and insidious, form of gambling in this country is not jueteng, it is breeding. One has as many children as possible, hopefully male, to get one out of the rut of poverty. Maybe one of them can make it well enough to get the rest of the family by. A gamble that almost always makes one lose. A gamble that certainly always makes the country lose. That is the culture the Church abets by its position on the RH bill: By all means breed like rabbits. That is good not just in the eyes of man, or rabbits, but in the eyes of God.

Thankfully, that is not how most thinking Catholics in this country see things. For them President Aquino is no more a bad Catholic for pushing RH than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a good Catholic for pushing her luck. For them, being challenged by a priest to leave Mass if they believe in RH is for them to rise to that challenge. For them RH is just Rx.

Just what the doctor ordered.



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

John Paul II's blood, Christ's foreskin

That cable TV and the Internet have made the world a smaller place will be demonstrated again this weekend when the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton as well as the beatification of John Paul II will be broadcast live from London today, April 29, and from the Vatican on May 1, respectively. Based on the invitations I have received for me to annotate the royal wedding for local TV, it seems that more viewers are expected to watch the royal wedding than the beatification Mass. Had TV stations done their homework, they would have done better to get a former Philippine ambassador to the Court of St. James to annotate the wedding live from his London home which is on the same exclusive street as our former embassy across Kensington Palace. Unfortunately, this former ambassador is not invited to the wedding and will join the crowds watching the proceedings from video walls set up around London.

Today will be the last day to pick up William-loves-Kate souvenirs before they are put on sale after the wedding fever shall have died down. Popes, past and present, also have their smiling faces on tacky tourist souvenirs that range from rosaries and prayer books to bottle-openers, screwdrivers and magnets for refrigerator doors. That everything has a commercial bent these days is not something to be frowned upon because these commercial interests make live TV coverage possible today. We all like fairy-tale weddings and just hope that today's royal wedding does not go down the same way as the last one—that of Charles and Diana. Those of us who live in the real world know that not all fairy tales end happily ever after, but it isn't a crime to dream.

What caught my eye in the news the other day was rather medieval and gruesome. A wire story reported that four vials of John Paul II's blood, extracted from him shortly before he passed away in 2005, are now considered holy relics! One vial will be presented to Pope Benedict XVI at the beatification Mass on Sunday. Another vial is in the care of nuns who run the Bambini Gesu Hospital in Rome, and the remaining two vials are in the care of the Archbishop of Krakow, Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, who was Pope John Paul II's secretary. A drop of John Paul's blood was sent to Polish Formula 1 driver Robert Kubica after he suffered an accident. This same racer has the late pope's name on his crash helmet and, if that isn't enough protection, he wears a medallion that contains a fragment from the pope's robe.

One would think that relics went out of style following Martin Luther and the Protestant reformation in the 16th century, but the veneration of relics continues well into the beginning of the 21st century. Of

course, modern church people are quick to point out that these relics or the physical remains of a holy person should not be considered miraculous; neither should they be worshipped as the practice borders on superstition. At best, relics are souvenirs of a saintly life. They can be: first-class relics, meaning a piece of the saint's body (e.g., bone, skin, hair, blood); second-class relics, meaning objects closely associated, often physically, with a saint, like clothing or other personal effects; and third-class relics, meaning objects that have been touched onto a first-class relic (e.g., a piece of cloth rubbed on the bones of a saint or laid on a saint's tomb).

As a historian I have always been fascinated by relics. In my past life as a Benedictine monk, when visiting other monasteries, I would ask to see their relic cabinet. One of my memorable experiences was in an English monastery with the keeper of relics. He had written a standard reference work on saints. "What do you want to see?" he asked. Before I could ask for the catalogue, he offered to show me a piece of the manger where Christ lay, a piece of St. Joseph's underwear, a piece of the banner that St. George carried when he slew the dragon, and milk of the Virgin Mary. As a historian himself he could read the skepticism in my eyes, and I wonder if he was just trying to make me laugh.

So he opened large drawers and brought out a whole set of garments that once belonged to Pius IX, everything from a mitre down to those specially made red shoes. As I admired this bit of physical history that lay before me, he asked, "Would you like to try it on?" I politely declined scared that lightning would strike me down if I accepted the tempting offer.

In other monasteries the relics were kept in reliquaries of gold and silver, ornamented by precious stones. These reliquaries sometimes took on the shape of the relic itself. For instance, if it was bone from a foot, then the reliquary was in the shape of a foot. I have seen reliquaries that contained arms and heads. One contained a tangled vine, which was the Crown of Thorns before all the thorns were taken away. Some reliquaries come in the form of a cross because they contain pieces from the True Cross, but nothing beats a gold reliquary in France that once held the foreskin of Christ. The relic has since disappeared. But that is not a problem because there were about a dozen churches in medieval Europe that all claimed to have the holy foreskin.

Relics, like royal wedding souvenirs, are pieces of history, remnants of memory. Whether they become objects that bring about health, happiness, safety, or a winning lotto number—now, that really depends on your faith.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Samu't Sari

POLO LIVELIHOOD TRAINING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Basic Nihonggo class listen to instructor Leopoldo Rodriguez Jr. The class had their graduation ceremony last April 10.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eli Arago of Tan Holdings talks about managing a sari-sari store to some 24 students.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chef Hermie Coronejo of Fiesta Resort & Spa demonstrates how to prepare meat products to his students.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Labor representative Carmelina teaches Filipinos on Rota about the basics of financial literacy during an outreach activity on March 12 to 13.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Basic Computer Operations 1 are photographed in action during a class.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Happy 30th wedding anniversary to Danny and Flor Chan. We love you! Greetings from Dan Ray, Joanna, Daphne, Keeno, Joanne, Benju, Queen Anne, Louis, Bryan Gil, Farah Jane, and Danica Shane.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Basic Computer Operations 1 students listen attentively to instructors

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy 4th birthday to Jake Jared Cruz Aguon who will be celebrating this wonderful day on May 1, 2011. Hope you enjoy this wonderful day and we wish you many more to come. Love Mommy, Daddy, and the rest of your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy third birthday to Justin Dylan Castro Aguon who celebrated his special day last April 28. Wishing you the very best and many more to come. Love and miss you so very much. Love always from Auntie Houser.

Young Style

Kids visit first lady for take child to work day

By STACY A. ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama talked with kids about a few of her favorite things for the annual Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

She took dozens of questions Thursday in a light-hearted chat with about 200 children of White House employees. What's her favorite color? Lavender. Her favorite sport to play? Tennis. Mrs. Obama says her hobbies include exercising "just to keep moving," talking with her daughters, Sasha and Malia, and going to their soccer and lacrosse games on the weekends.

"I do what your moms and dads do," she said, "and when you have kids, we usually do what you do. That's what becomes our favorite thing."

"Song of Solomon" by Toni Morrison is one of her favorite books, the first that she "loved and read cover to

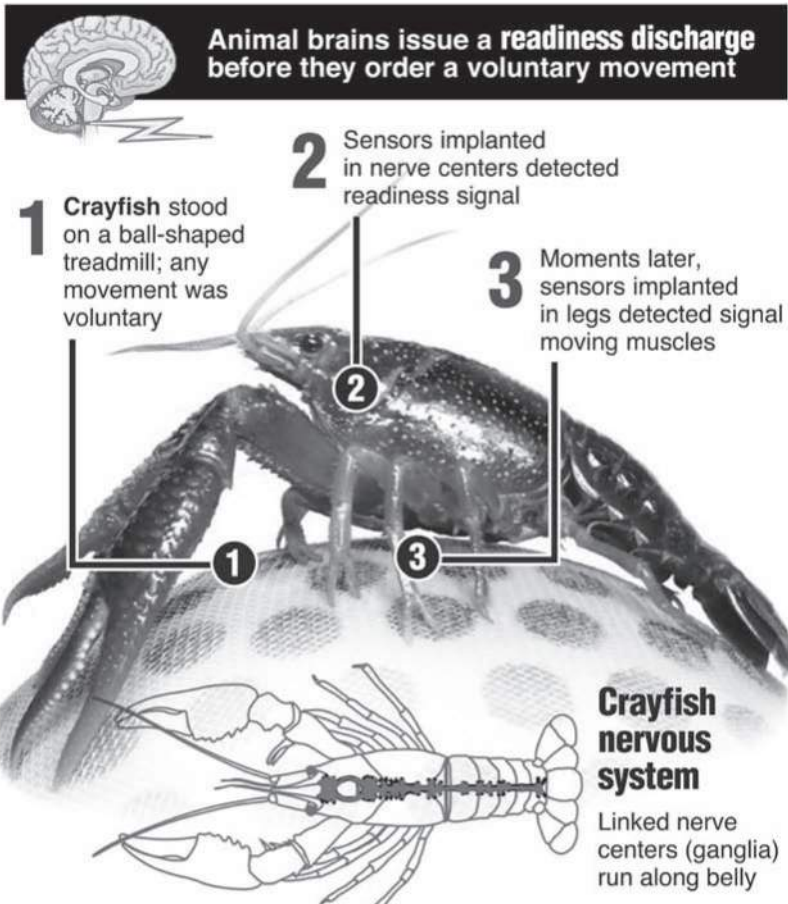
► First lady Michelle Obama takes questions while meeting with the children of White House employees on "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," Thursday, April 28, 2011, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.



Science Matters

Get ready ... now go!

Researchers are beginning to see what an animal's nervous system does just before the animal moves — as it forms the intention to move.



What was discovered

Timing of signals and position of sensors let researchers identify which nerve cells (axons) carry readiness signal

Microscopic view of axons that carry pre-action signal to legs

cover in one day." She mentioned her two favorite children's books: "Good-night Moon" and "Where the Wild Things Are."

Mrs. Obama said as first lady she has no formal job description and gets to decide what she wants to do, such as her initiative to combat childhood obesity and promote healthy

eating, and a national campaign to support military families.

She said the family dog, Bo, also has a job: accompanying the head gardener and National Park Service staff every morning to tend to the plants.

"I think he thinks he has a job because he takes it very seriously," she said.

Mrs. Obama said Bo often likes to

jump in her lap and cuddle, but not when he is working with his crew. "He's like, I'm at work. I'm busy," she said, drawing laughs from the crowd.

The children's White House visit included taking an "oath of office," meeting staffers from the Secret Service, National Park Service and White House kitchens and a brown-bag lunch.

Kids' Krafts: Have a musical Cinco de Mayo

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Today, one in six Americans is of Hispanic descent. According to the 2010 census, the total population of Hispanic Americans has increased to more than 50 million people, doubling the Hispanic-American population since the last census was taken in 2000.

Many Hispanic Americans continue to celebrate holidays and traditions that originated in Mexico. Celebrations for Cinco de Mayo, which is Spanish for the 5th of May, are readily embraced by people who have no Mexican heritage at all.

Many Americans are happy to celebrate a Mexican military battle that happened more than 150 year ago with as much zeal as they celebrate the death of an Irish bishop on March 17.

Even if they have no idea what the holiday signifies.

The Cinco de Mayo holiday is a matter of Hispanic pride. It commemorates the day the Mexican army triumphed over an invading French army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Today, it is remembered with parades and festivals all across America — anywhere with large numbers of Hispanic Americans.

The French army, under the order of Emperor Napoleon III was sent to seize the country, which they believed would put up little resistance.

When the battle was over, many French were killed or wounded and Mexicans declared a decisive victory.



You can celebrate Cinco de Mayo by making a maraca, a traditional Mexican musical instrument from simple items you have in your home.

You can learn more about Mexican customs by making a maraca, a traditional Mexican musical instrument, from simple items you have in your home.

I found directions at <http://crafts.kabooze.com/maracas.html>.

Supplies you will need:

- 2 plastic foam cups.

- Colorful acrylic paint and brushes.
- Decorative accents such as rickrack, ribbon, buttons, pompoms or beads.
- White tacky glue.
- Dried beans.
- Old newspapers.

Spread newspapers out on a flat work surface.

Paint the center sections of the outside of two plastic foam drinking cups a light color and let dry. Paint the bottom, the bottom rim and the top lip of the cup in a bright color.

Let dry.

Place dried beans into one of the cups and apply glue to the top. Turn the other cup over and line the rims up, one on top of the other. Glue the top rim of the empty cup to the top rim of the cup holding the beans.

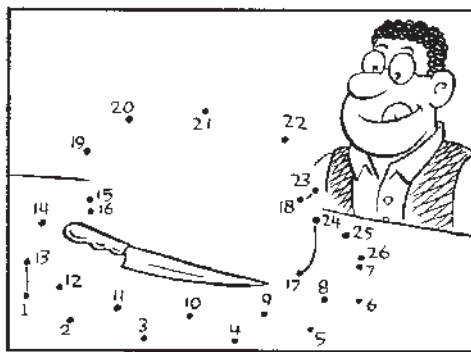
Place a line of tacky glue over the seam where the two rims meet and wrap a piece of rickrack around it. Trim to fit.

Allow the maraca to dry completely.

Finish decorating by gluing on pompoms, beads, ribbon or other decorations.

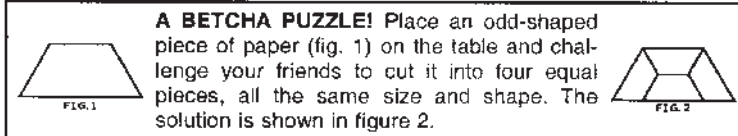
When the glue is completely dry, shake your maraca!

Kathy Antonioti writes a craft column for the Beacon Journal. If you have a craft idea or question, contact Kathy Antonioti, Akron Beacon Journal, P.O. Box 640, Akron OH 44309-0640; 330-996-3565; or kantoniotti@thebeaconjournal.com.



WHAT MOST RESEMBLES HALF A CHEESE?
Connect the dots and find out!

ANSWER: The other half.



A BETCHA PUZZLE! Place an odd-shaped piece of paper (fig. 1) on the table and challenge your friends to cut it into four equal pieces, all the same size and shape. The solution is shown in figure 2.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

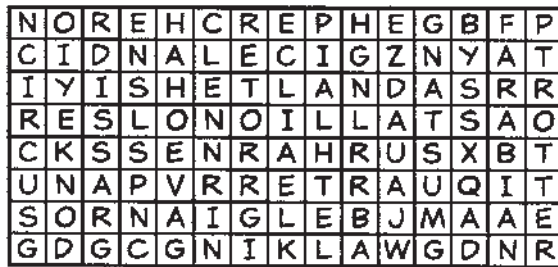


Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Dams, dare, dame, darts, dirt, dirt, dirt, dirt.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

TALLYHO, WORD SEARCHERS!



Hidden in the diagram above are names and words associated with horses. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words you're looking for.

ARABIAN GRASS QUARTER
BELGIAN HARNESS SHETLAND
CARRIAGE ICELANDIC STALLION
CIRCUS MUSTANG TROTTER
DONKEY PASTURE WALKING
GAIT PERCHERON

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein who made the following sage observation: "If people never did silly things, nothing intelligent would ever get done."

■ Much like farmers of today, ancient Egyptians who worked the land worried about a variety of animals that could destroy their crops: locusts, sparrows, mice and worms. Unlike the typical Midwesterner of today, though, they also had to worry about hippopotamuses.

■ The fierce Apache warrior we know today as Geronimo was not originally so named. His given name was Goyahkla, which means "one who yawns."

■ We've all seen pictures of African women carrying heavy loads—up to 75 pounds in some cases—balanced securely on their heads. But you might not realize that these women can carry more, relative to body size, more efficiently than pack mules.

■ As the end of the school year approaches, this might be a good time to remember that it was Americans who came up with the idea of summer camp.

■ The name of the country of Iraq is derived from the Arabic word meaning "origin."

■ If you've ever watched the closing credits of a film (and are not yourself involved in the movie industry), you might be wondering about some of the titles you've seen, so here's a quick rundown: The gaffer is the chief electrician on the project; the key grip puts together and takes down sets, as well as lighting and laying the track on which the cameras move; and the best boy assists the gaffer and the key grip.

Thought for the Day: "Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'" —Isaac Asimov

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MAGIC MAZE • AIRCRAFT USED BY THE THUNDERBIRDS AND BLUE ANGELS

I D B Y W U S Q O N M K I F D
B Z X W U S Q O O T N L J S T
T H U N D E R C H I E F U E E
R A G U O C L H I G F P N S J
D E C C A A K M Y E E R W E R
N V H R F W O T S R O Q P L E
N O L T A T K I S I I I F E U D
C B L H N E Z A Y W V U S C N
R Q Y A P A B N B O X C A R U
M K H L T R P J T A C L I E H
S P K A E R T S R E D N U H T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bearcat Hercules Skyhawk Thunderjet
Boxcar Hornet Super Sabre Thunderstreak
Cougar Panther Talon Tiger
Helicat Phantom II Thunderchief

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

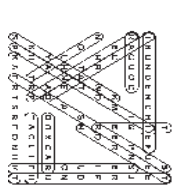
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		+		10
+		+		÷	
	×		-		19
÷		×		+	
	-		×		18
4		10		10	

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



AIRCRAFT USED BY THE THUNDERBIRDS AND BLUE ANGELS

GO FIGURE ANSWER

10	10	4
19	9	1
+	×	÷
18	2	3
÷	+	+
10	8	7

Oxygen hose is no chew toy

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a 2-year-old cat, "Annie," who loves to chew on anything plastic—particularly my wife's oxygen hose. How can I stop her from doing this? It gets costly.—Dave F., via email

DEAR DAVE: It's not just costly in terms of replacing medical equipment, there's also the risk of Annie having to endure a costly surgery to remove bits of plastic lodged in her digestive tract. However, it can be tough to break a cat of certain habits, and many cats love to gnaw at certain textures and shapes.

If possible, you or your wife should come up with ways to move the oxygen hose (or hoses) out of Annie's reach, either by attaching to the chair with a strip or two of medical tape or, if carrying oxygen around, by looping the excess length of hose around the top of the tank or over one's shoulder.

Another method to consider is spraying the exposed length of hose with a cat repellent. Several types are available at pet stores and are used to deter cats from clawing or gnawing things like furniture or other fascinating protuberances.

In either case, constant vigilance is still required, as Annie will continue to



try to bite the hose if she can get close enough (despite the presence of any stinky spray). When she makes a move toward the hose, distract her with a toy or by calling her. Or, by gently picking her up and placing her in another part of the room, ideally facing a favorite toy or scratching post on which she can take out her energy.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Croissant french toast for Mother's Day

When it's Mother's Day, it's all about tradition in the Paymar/Haddorff household. Now in its 20th year, moms, grandmothers, aunts, cousins and close friends gather in their home around a fabulous Sunday brunch. "It started rather small with our parents, grandparents and siblings long before our sons were born," said Kara, mom of 11-year-old Eli and 7-year-old Jonah. "It feels like we've been doing it forever. In spite of tackling some extra cleaning around the house beforehand, it's a special day that requires very little planning, and I don't have to cook a thing," she assured me.

And they have every detail down pat. "The plan never changes, and our guests know the beat intuitively," said dad Jeff. "No invitations or reminders necessary. They know where to go (our house), when to come (11-11:30) and what to bring."

"My dad purchases and prepares the maple sausages from his favorite meat market," said Kara. "My father-in-law, Bob, brings a fruit salad. Brother-in-law Brian and his wife, Anita, share their favorite creme brulee for dessert. Since they don't have kids, they have plenty of time to prepare it! And this year, the boys and Jeff will peel and cook apples for our over-the-top French toast made with piles of fresh croissants. There's really nothing better than celebrating and carrying on a tradition with family and friends," she added.

Brother-in-law Brandon arrives with orange juice and champagne for a mimosa toast to the moms.

If you are tempted to start a new Mother's Day tradition, here's their family recipe to get you inspired.

CROISSANT FRENCH TOAST WITH COOKED APPLES

- 1 stick of butter (1/4 pound)
- 1/4 cup raw sugar
- 4 apples peeled, cored and cut

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

into eighths

- 1/3 cup pure maple syrup
- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 croissants, halved lengthwise
- Confectioners' sugar
- Fresh mint leaves for garnish

1. Melt half the butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add raw sugar and cook 1-2 minutes, until the sugar has caramelized. Add the apples and maple syrup. Cook over medium heat 20-25 minutes, until apples are tender. Keep warm until ready to serve.

2. Whisk milk, eggs and cinnamon together in a shallow dish. Dip croissant halves into the mixture one or two at a time.

3. Melt some of the remaining butter on a griddle. Cook soaked croissant halves over medium heat until they are golden brown on each side. Repeat with remaining butter and croissant halves.

4. Spoon warm maple-apple mixture on bottom half of a croissant. Cover with the top and dust with confectioners' sugar. Garnish with mint and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

With the two simple words “I will,” Prince William and Kate Middleton are ending months of build-up and sealing their love with the most public of spectacles, a wedding ceremony at Westminster Abbey that holds the promise of a royal renaissance.

A third of the planet was expected to watch Friday as the future king and queen of England start their lives as husband and wife.

All the clamoring about seemingly every detail—the wedding dress, her hair, her makeup, the romantic kiss on the Buckingham Palace balcony, the honeymoon—finally will be answered.

Save perhaps for the biggest question of all: Is this one royal couple who will live happily ever after?

Will their union endure like that of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, now in its 64th year, or crumble like that of Prince Charles and Lady Diana?

Recent history augurs badly: The first marriages of three of the queen’s four children ended in divorce.

But the couple’s chemistry brings confidence that this one will work.

William and Kate look fantastic together, seeming to glow with happiness in each other’s company, and unlike Charles and Diana they’ve had eight years to figure out they’re made for each other.

But the fate of their marriage will depend on private matters impossible for the public to gauge amid the hoopla. A beautiful bridal gown and eye-popping sapphire and diamond engagement ring do not guarantee a happy ending. Money, power, beauty—it can all go wrong if not carefully nurtured.

Much will depend on whether 28-year-old William and 29-year-old Kate can summon the things every couple needs to make a marriage work: patience, love, wit and wisdom. But they face pressures most of us don’t: the twin burdens of fame and scrutiny.

These are the thorny issues upon which the fate of the monarchy rests, as the remarkable Queen Elizabeth II, now 85, inevitably ages and declines.

Everything is set: The rehearsals have been held, the cakes have been baked,



Royal enthusiasts camp in front of Westminster Abbey in London, Thursday, April 28, 2011.

bey and other London landmarks.

The celebration will be British to the core, from the freshly polished horse-drawn carriages to the sausages and lager served at street parties. Some pubs were opening early, offering beer and English breakfasts—sausages, beans, toast, fried eggs and bacon—to wedding fans who wanted to watch it on TV.

The public festivities reflected Britons’ continuing fascination with the royal family, which despite its foibles remains a powerful symbol of unity and pride.

Prime Minister David Cameron touched on that theme Thursday.

“It’s that mixture of the good-looking prince and the beautiful princess, but it’s so much more than that,” he said. “It’s this institution that’s helped bind the country together. And it’s got this amazing history that goes way, way back.”

But the wedding, like any wedding, is fundamentally about two people. Will their lives together, starting with such high hopes, be blessed by good fortune?

In ways large and small, theirs is a very ordinary romance carried out under extraordinary pressure: Two young people fall in love in college and experience a deep attraction and fondness for each other that ripens over time. They decide to make it official, to become a family, not just lovers who share a home.

Like so many couples, they likely face some doubts as they give up their single status and contemplate starting a family.

It is the most personal, most intimate of decisions, but carried out against a backdrop of intense public interest, simply because William is second in line to the British throne, born to be king.

The royals fervently hope that a joyous union between William and Kate will rub out the squalid memories of Prince Charles and Princess Diana embarrassing each other and the nation with a string of accusations and confessions as their marriage slid toward divorce.

The young couple must sometimes wonder why they cannot simply be left alone to cope with William’s demanding and dangerous work as a Royal Air Force helicopter rescue pilot. Instead they are tasked with reviving a monarchy, bur-nishing a nation’s pride, and helping boost public morale at a time of austerity.

Oh, and being happy, too.

Here they come: Kate and William ready to wed

the toast of the best man (William’s brother Harry) written, suits and uniforms pressed, hats carefully chosen, shoes buffed, flowers arranged and the champagne put on ice for two exclusive receptions at Buckingham Palace.

Hundreds of street parties are planned as Britons celebrate part of the heritage that makes them unique—and overseas visitors come to witness traditions they’ve admired from afar.

“It’s part of history,” said Norene Shultis of Madison, Wis., who arrived in London Thursday after an overnight flight.

“It’s so different from the United States. We don’t have royalty. And we think William and Kate will be a good

couple and do lots of good things and live happily ever after.”

The government has declared a national holiday, universally welcomed by schoolchildren, and there has been a marked proliferation of Union Jacks in the last week as London spruces up for the big event, which has drawn thousands of journalists and tens of thousands of visitors from overseas.

Some 1,900 immaculately dressed guests, including fellow royals from around the world, a smattering of pop stars, sports idols and dignitaries, will jam Westminster Abbey.

A number of famous people were left off the guest list, including President

Barack Obama and most other world leaders. Also not invited were Britain’s last two prime ministers, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, in a snub to their Labour Party, which traditionally is not as strong a backer of the monarchy as the ruling Conservatives. The invitation for Syria’s ambassador was rescinded Thursday because of Britain’s unhappiness with the bloody government crackdown in his country.

The wedding is expected to be watched by 2 billion people across the globe and draw a million well-wishers—as well as some protesters—into the historic environs surrounding Buckingham Palace, Westminster Ab-

TV host says NBC knows Trump’s political plans

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC was not responding to a challenge by talk-show host Lawrence O’Donnell to disclose whether Donald Trump will return next fall with “The Celebrity Apprentice.”

“NBC has created a monster and it is called Donald Trump,” O’Donnell said in a blistering 15-minute rant on Wednesday’s edition of his show, “The Last Word,” which airs on MSNBC, a sister network of NBC.

“NBC can no longer stand idly by, not for one more day,” he said.

If a deal is in place for another “Apprentice” season, Trump’s attention-grabbing flirtation with a presidential bid is nothing more than a publicity stunt, O’Donnell declared.

“If Donald Trump has committed to do (‘Celebrity Apprentice’), he is obviously not running for president,” O’Donnell said, “and all of this, every bit of it, is as fake as Donald’s reality show.”

NBC, which will formally an-

nounce its 2011-12 season schedule on May 16, must already know if more “Celebrity Apprentice” is in the cards, O’Donnell said. He insisted that NBC settle the question right away and avoid being part of what he called Trump’s “campaign to legitimize hatred and racism.”

NBC declined to comment Thursday. “I wouldn’t dignify Lawrence O’Donnell’s ridiculous statements by even providing a response,” said Michael Cohen, an executive with the Trump Organization and a Trump spokesman.

O’Donnell’s latest blast at Trump, a not-infrequent target, came hours after the White House released President Barack Obama’s long-form birth certificate from Hawaii, debunking persistent claims that Obama was born in Africa.

The so-called “birther” controversy has dominated the early stage of the 2012 GOP nominating contest, with Trump leading the charge. Then, on Wednesday, he boasted of having



In this Sept. 27, 2010 file photo, Lawrence O’Donnell, political analyst for the cable news channel MSNBC, appears on his set in New York.

“played such a big role” in prodding Obama to release the document.

During his recent media blitz, Trump has also suggested, without providing evidence, that Obama was

a mediocre student who did not deserve to be admitted to the Ivy League universities he attended.

Trump’s quasi-political campaign has dovetailed with the current sea-

son of “Celebrity Apprentice,” which has drawn a robust audience hovering around 8.2 million viewers in its first eight weeks.

On Wednesday, Trump repeated to reporters his intention to reveal his presidential plans after the show’s season conclusion. While plugging the May 22 finale, Trump explained, “When the show is over, I will then be free to announce.”

But O’Donnell disputed Trump’s rationale, saying he could continue on the show even after announcing his plans, without NBC being forced to supply equal airtime to other candidates. Trump would not officially become a candidate until filing the legally required documents, O’Donnell said.

“He could wait for weeks or months to file those papers after simply saying he’s going to run for president,” O’Donnell said. “Trump is now hiding behind NBC when asked the single most important question in front of him: Are you going to run for president? And NBC is allowing him to hide behind NBC.”

'American Idol' eliminates another finalist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey Abrams was given the heave-ho on "American Idol."

The eccentric 20-year-old musician-singer from Idyllwild, Calif., received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest Thursday after his growl-filled interpretation of "Hi-De-Ho" on Wednesday's evening of Carole King tunes.

Abrams was previously rescued by the show's judges with their one-time-only power, but there was no helping the jazz-lover this time.

"When I watched Casey last night, I was disappointed," said "Idol" mentor and Interscope chief Jimmy Iovine. "He was on, but he felt that he had to growl. Casey's got to realize that the family dog does not vote on this show."

Abrams was joined in the bottom three by Jacob Lusk, the acrobatic 23-year-old vocalist from Compton, Calif., who grooved to "Oh No Not My Baby" while clad in plaid. They were rounded out by Scotty McCreery, the deep-voiced 17-year-old country



"American Idol" contestants Jacob Lusk, left, and Casey Abrams arrive at the champagne launch of the fifth annual BritWeek in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

crooner from Garner, N.C., who won back the judges with "You've Got a Friend" after the panel told him he played it safe last week.

Before the elimination, the

six finalists teamed up for a medley of King tunes. Crystal Bowersox, the dreadlocked ninth season "Idol" runner-up, performed "Riding On the Radio," and Bruno Mars sizzled

with "The Lazy Song."

For his swan song, Abrams performed an over-the-top take on "I Put a Spell on You," stopping to smooch several members of the crowd.

Steve Carell leaves 'The Office' after 7 seasons

NEW YORK (AP)—Scranton regional manager Michael Scott has left "The Office," as long promised, in a fond farewell for the actor who played him, series star Steve Carell.

Carell is leaving the NBC comedy after seven seasons to concentrate on films. But his character left Dunder Mifflin paper supply company after 19 rollicking, unbusiness-like years, bound for Colorado to start a new life with his fiancée, Holly.

On the episode airing Thursday night, the show's full cast of office workers was properly emotional at Michael's departure. This even included Michael's problematic successor, played by guest star Will Ferrell in the third of a four-episode story arc.



This 2007 file image originally provided by NBC Universal shows a scene from NBC's "The Office," showing Steve Carell, center, as Michael Scott.

NBC has not announced who will permanently fill the large void Carell leaves in the series, which has been renewed for next

season. The guessing game has been fueled by news that guest stars in this season's remaining episodes include Jim Carrey,

James Spader, Will Arnett and Ray Romano, as well as Ricky Gervais, a creator and star of the original British version.

The extended farewell episode depicted Michael's final workday, which he spent in a bittersweet, often bumbling separation process. Michael—who is inept, inappropriate and forever seeking love and laughs from his employees—wrestled with the gravity of his decision to leave.

He was caught short by a bookkeeping question: Where did he want his last paycheck to be mailed?

"Last paycheck," he murmured, as if the very idea were foreign to him.

In the break room, he drank in the mundane conversation between his soon-to-be-former colleagues.

Superman: I'm renouncing my US citizenship

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Truth, justice and the ... global way?

Superman has started a stir with a declaration in the new issue of "Action Comics" that he intends to renounce his U.S. citizenship because he's tired of his actions being construed as instruments of U.S. policy.

The Man of Steel, who emigrated to earth as a child from Krypton and was adopted by the Kents in Smallville, Kan., comes to the conclusion that he's better off serving the world at large after he's accused of causing an international incident by flying to Tehran amid a large protest.

Noting the huge police presence and warnings from the army there about harsh repercussions, he wanted the demonstrators to know "that they weren't alone."

The nine-page story was written by David S. Goyer and was drawn by Miguel Sepulveda. In it, Superman for 24 hours stands silently, bearing the brunt of gasoline bombs, taunts and threats but also receiving cheers and roses from supporters, as the more than 1 million-strong crowd protests but isn't fired on before the demonstration

ends peacefully.

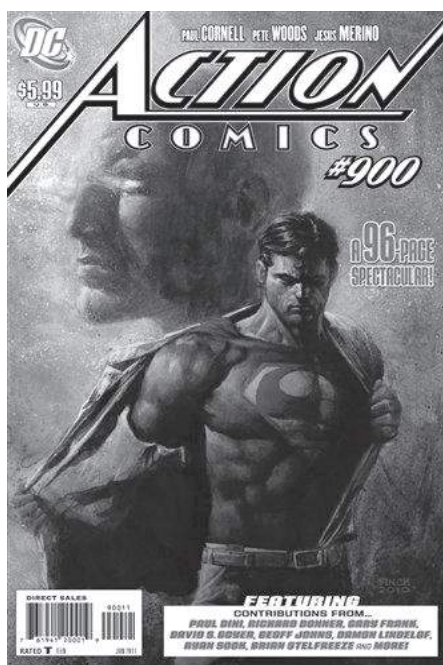
"I stayed in Azadi Square for 24 hours. I didn't move. I didn't speak. I just stayed there," Superman tells the U.S. national security adviser, who has feared the all-powerful hero has gone rogue.

But Iran's government refers to it as an act of war and accuses him of acting on behalf of the U.S. president.

And that, Superman explains, is why he is going to give up his citizenship. "Truth, justice and the American way"—it's not enough anymore," he says. "The world's too small, too connected." It's not the first time a comic character has been fed up with being seen as part of U.S. policy.

In the 1970s, Marvel Comics' Captain America—aka Steve Rogers—gave up his famed suit and shield and adopted the identity Nomad around the time the Watergate scandal began heating up.

News of the Superman decision has drawn critical comments in blogs and online forums, but DC Comics says it not about criticizing the U.S. In fact, the publisher says, the Man of Steel remains as American



In this comic book image released by DC Comics, Superman is shown in the latest of issue of Action Comics No. 900, where he renounces his U.S. citizenship because of his concerns that his actions are seen as instruments of U.S. foreign policy.

Girl fears she's falling behind in teen dating game

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl who has never been popular with boys. It has always been something that has bothered me. The hardest part is watching my friends date while I have to stay home.

One way I was able to make myself feel better was by telling myself everything would change when high school started. By the end of our first week as freshmen, my friend "Lily" had a new boyfriend and I'm still alone. Her boyfriend actually joked that I should "play for the other team" because I have no chance of getting a guy. Needless to say, my friendship with Lily is over, but her boyfriend's comment is still sticking with me.

Abby, do I really have no chance with guys? Am I overreacting about not having a boyfriend? I feel I should have dated plenty by now.

Dear Abby

WAITING FOR THE FIRST KISS IN JERSEY

DEAR WAITING: The comment Lily's boyfriend made was asinine and uncalled for. Please don't measure your worth using that immature boy's yardstick. Not being a belle of the ball in high school doesn't mean you won't blossom socially later. Many people do. You will get the kiss you're craving and validation, too, if you'll be a little more patient.

Use this time to concentrate on your studies, athletics, special interests, volunteering in your community and completing your education. Those things are more important than a boyfriend right now -- and they'll leave you with less time to brood. When you're older, you will meet men (not boys) who value what you have to offer. And yes, I know you have probably heard this before, but it's true.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a woman friend who is always saying to me, "I wish just you and I could go do something together." So the other day I called her and suggested we visit a local flea market -- which we both love -- and then go to a local festival. She replied that it sounded great, but she needed to talk to her husband, "Ted," to see if he wanted to join us.

Abby, she does this to me all the time. I'm tired of inviting her for a girls' day and having her come only if Ted is coming. Should I stop the invitations?

TICKED OFF IN FLORIDA

DEAR TICKED OFF: No, before you do that you should tell her how you feel about her sending you mixed messages. And if it happens again, THEN stop inviting her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently took my official college graduation photo and was excited to show my mom. She said she was OK with my giving her one of the small photos because she didn't want to put any more holes in the wall. It really upset me.

I am the first person in my family to graduate from college. Mom's comment about not wanting holes in the wall was unacceptable. I argued with her, cried and told her how I felt. Mom told me to get out and that I had no right to tell her what to do in her house.

I'm still hurt. I feel that if she's as proud of my accomplishments as she says, she should show it. She apologized later, but her comment still stings. Please help me get over it.

UPSET COLLEGE SENIOR

DEAR UPSET: I'll try. Your mother may have been tactless, but it's important that you bury the hatchet. Her pride in your accomplishments is not as important as your own pride in them. Remember that, and no one will ever be able to make you feel diminished!

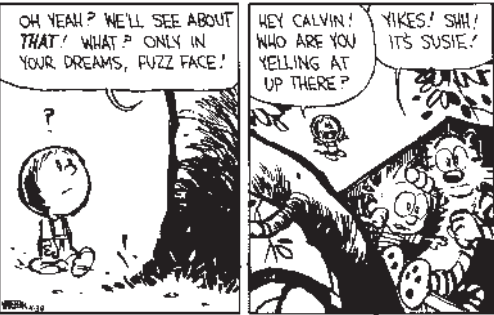
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

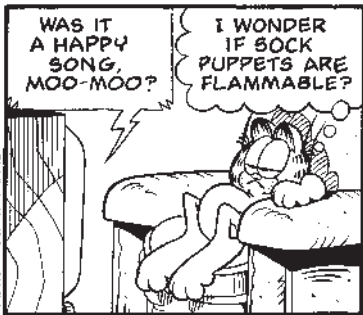
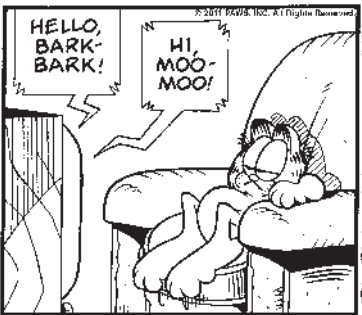
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



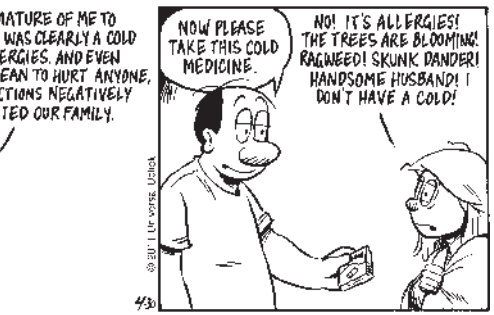
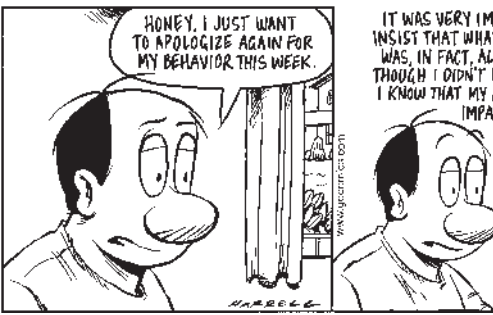
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



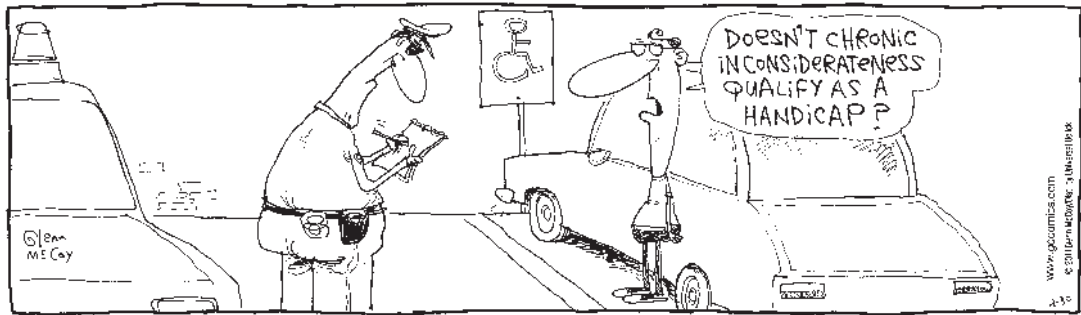
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Out-felder's thwarter

6 Gum arabic

12 Naval clerk

13 Grieves

14 Straight-en

15 Oriental temple

16 Lowly worker

17 Kiln

19 Bribe

20 Beginning

22 ER hookups

24 In medias —

27 Perjurer

29 "— ben Adhem"

32 Spar

35 Teensy bit

36 Black and white

37 Teensy

38 Scepter

40 On a liner, maybe

42 Siesta

44 Red Muppet

46 Informa-tion

50 Baltimore bird

52 Nuts-and-sugar paste

54 Old market-places

55 Intertwine

56 Sweet-hearts

57 So old it's new

DOWN

1 Heredi-tary

2 Timber wolf

3 Change formally

4 Scooted

5 Being philan-thropic

6 Pumps up the volume

7 Ring-tailed animal

8 Summer mo.

9 Medieval weapon

10 —

11 Pronto, on a memo

12 "Uh-huh"

18 Clue in "The Da Vinci Code"

21 Chicken-king link

23 Actor Kilmer

24 Stephen of "The Crying Game"

25 Addnl. phone

26 Zodiac arachnid

28 Bygone newsman

30 Be behind

31 Exploit

33 Med. care grp.

34 "See ya"

39 Postpone

41 Grownup

42 Ham's dad

43 Jason's craft

45 Smaller

47 Culture medium

48 Mexican entree

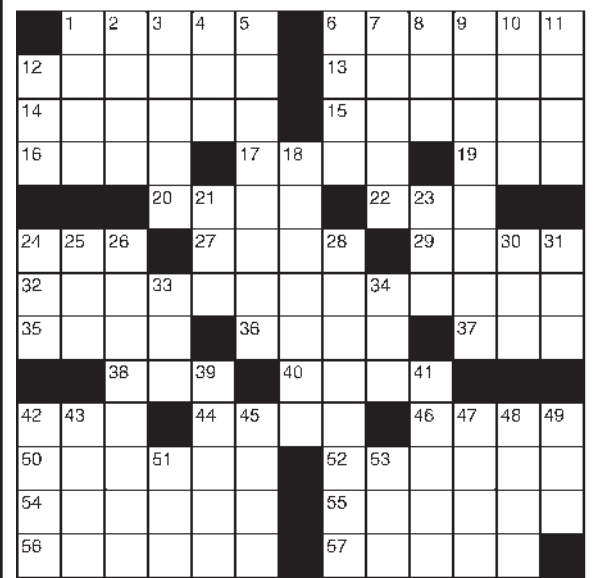
49 Had 48-Down

51 Tramcar contents

53 Insepa-rable

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diana Agron, 25; Kirsten Dunst, 29; Johnny Galecki, 36; Cloris Leachman, 85

Happy Birthday: Set your goals and put your priorities in order before you make a move. It's easy to get sidetracked by what others are doing. This time, you must follow the path that best suits you. This is a year to be meticulous, stable and positive. You can achieve success if you go about it the right way. Your numbers are 7, 11, 14, 22, 27, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't jump to conclusions before getting all the facts. You should be extremely careful when discussing business or financial matters with those in a position of authority. Deception is likely. Do your own research. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't put up with friends or relatives giving you a hard time. Dealing with institutions may be necessary if you or a loved one needs medical help. Keep your personal information a secret or someone is likely to meddle in your affairs. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get ahead if you organize your day carefully. Getting involved in a charitable event will help raise your profile. There is plenty to do and your accomplishments will impress someone you want on your team. Suggest special plans for two. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll upset someone if you are too busy to get together. It will probably be easier to be accommodating. Now is not the time to annoy

anyone or to avoid promises you made without thinking. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will get along well with anyone you encounter and can even sell your own ideas along the way. A chance to explore a new, moneymaking venture will get you thinking about possibilities. Love is on the rise. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a close look at your personal paperwork. Double check to make sure you are taking advantage of every possible deduction or savings. There is money to be made if you are smart in the way you set things up in the future. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll draw potential opportunities your way by being outspoken about your ideas for possible ventures. Emotions will be high and should be geared toward having fun and socializing with someone you are close to or want to get to know well. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plan a fun-filled day with plenty of physical activity with lots of unusual and interesting people. A challenge will get you all revved up and motivated. Your contribution to whatever you take on will impress someone looking for your kind of talent. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Getting into shape will make you feel good and boost your ego. Begin a routine and stick to it. Put time effort and cash into your residence, making it more accommodating and comfortable. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel as if you need a change but, before you do anything, consider taking a day out for yourself. You need a little pampering. It will help you ignore some of the situations you are unable to change right now. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be open about your intentions or ideas and it will lead to a moneymaking opportunity. Check out all your options before you make a final decision. A promise made a long time ago will be honored. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Working on self-improvement will raise your confidence and make you feel good about the possibilities available. You will realize how stuck you have been. A partnership with someone who complements what you have to offer will lead to a moneymaking venture. ***



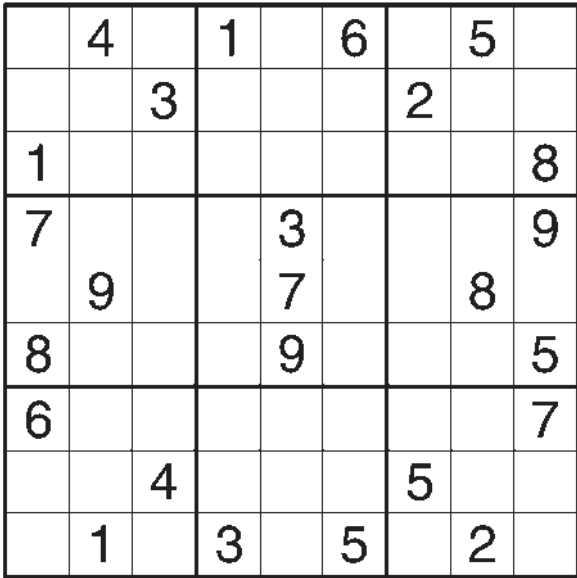
Birthdays: You are carefree and willing to try anything that promises to give you a thrill. You are loyal to the people you love.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

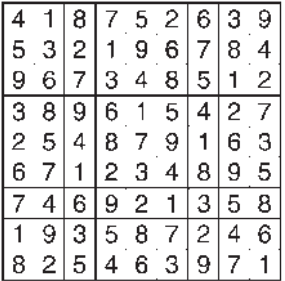


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

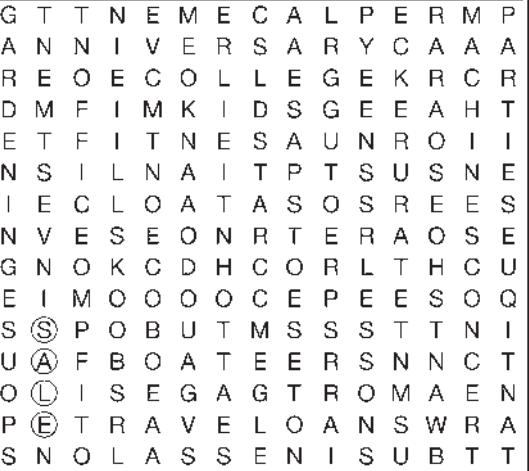
WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

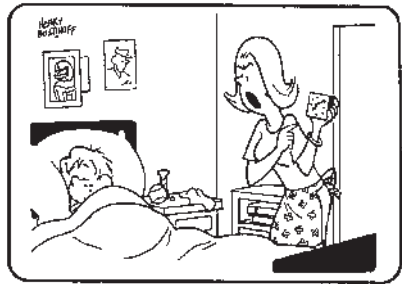
IT'S TIME TO SPEND

Solution: 9 letters

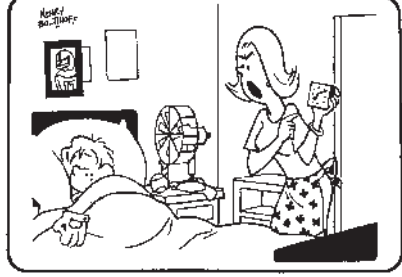


Anniversary, Antiques, Boat, Books, Business, Cars, College, Concert, Cottage, Entertainment, Finances, Food, Gardening, Hobbies, House, Investment, Kids, Lessons, Loans, Machines, Makeup, Mortgage, Office, Parents, Parties, Rate, Remodel, Replacement, Sale, Salon, School, Shoes, Sports, Spouse, Tickets, Transportation, Travel, Wants
Yesterday's Answer: Anglesley
Under 711 COLLECTOR WORDS TO GO 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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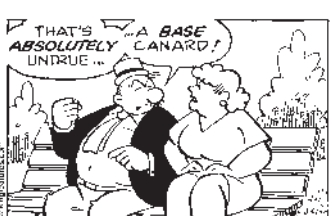
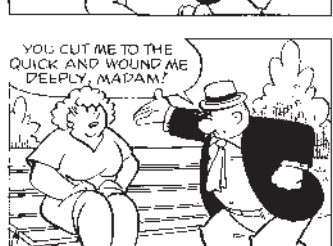
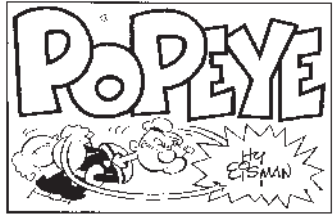
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Wishing Well®

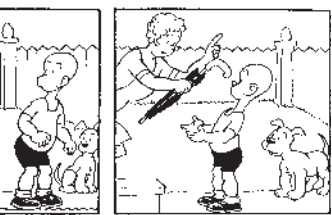
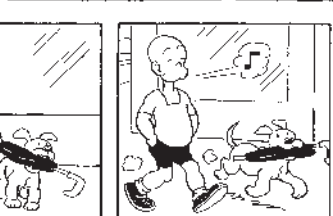
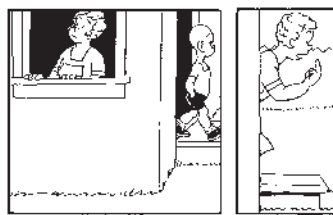
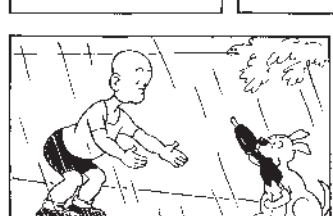
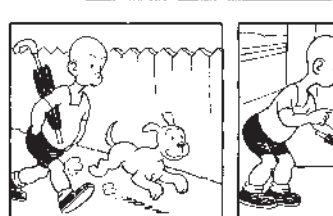
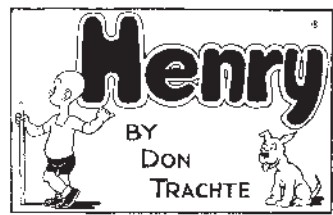
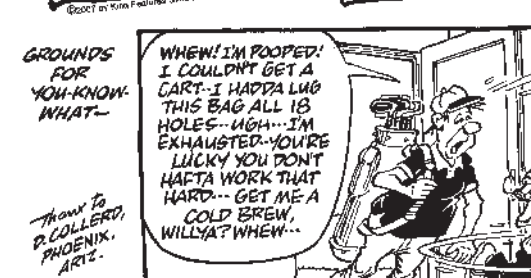
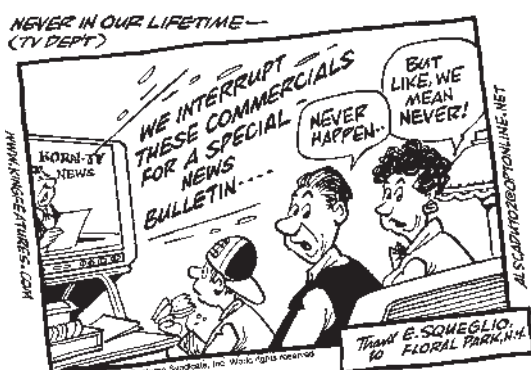
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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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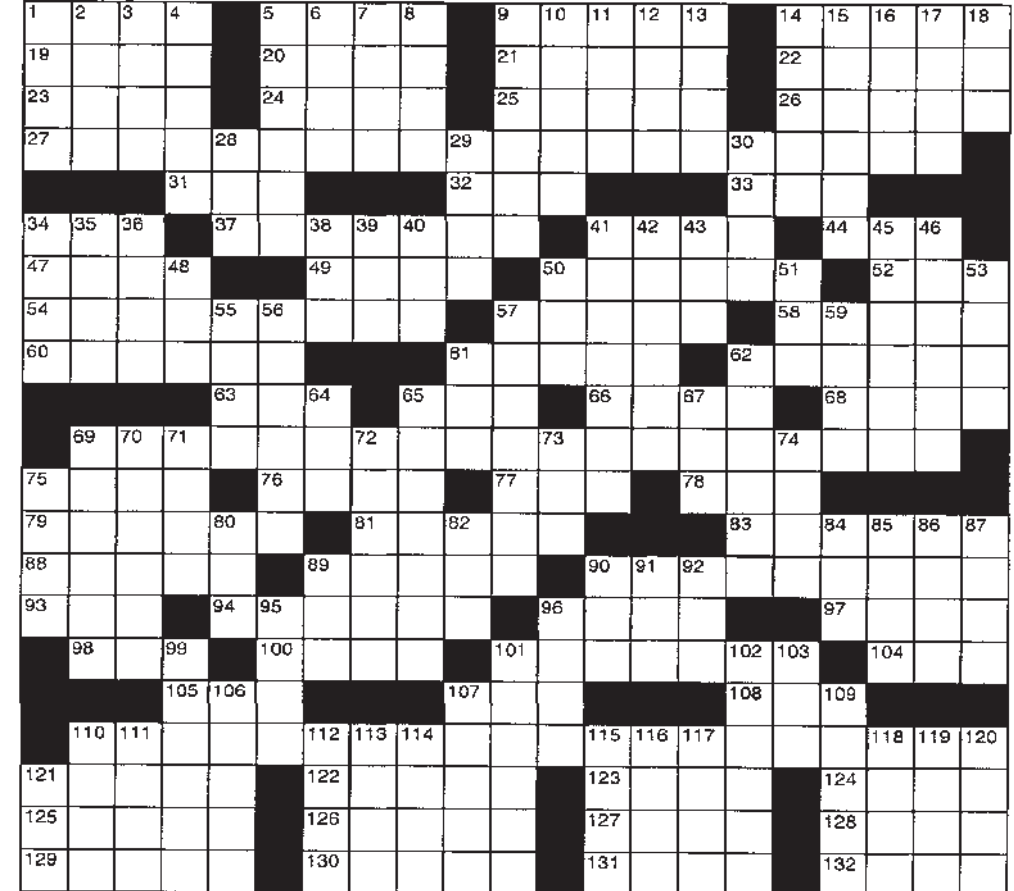
They'll Do It Every Time



Super Crossword

APRIL DILEMMA

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lump
 - 5 Showed sorrow
 - 9 Anthony of "Boston Public"
 - 14 Jambalaya ingredient
 - 19 Hammett hound
 - 20 Where to find an onager
 - 21 Songwriter Greenwich
 - 22 Spine-tingling
 - 23 Fertile soil
 - 24 Tumble
 - 25 Java joints
 - 26 — garde
 - 27 Start of a remark
 - 31 Herriot title start
 - 32 Vigoda or Saperstein
 - 33 Slippery character?
 - 34 Brit. fliers
 - 37 Slinger
 - 41 Celt
 - 44 Faucet
 - 47 94 Across highlight
 - 49 Pants part
 - 50 "The Jungle Book" boy
 - 52 Cask
 - 54 Part 2 of remark
 - 57 "Love — the Ruins" (75 film)
 - 58 Neon —
 - 60 Cap or dollman
 - 61 Bookstore section
 - 62 Bog
 - 63 Precambrian —
 - 65 In honor of
 - 66 Snick and —
 - 68 — above (somewhat superior)
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 75 Baseball family name
 - 76 Antitoxins
 - 77 Mouth piece?
 - 78 Long or Peebles
 - 79 Solidarity leader
 - 81 Forger's need
 - 83 Cultural
 - 88 Wear away
 - 89 Carthaginian
 - 90 Part 4 of remark
 - 93 Comic Rickles
 - 94 Bizet opera
 - 96 Nasty
 - 97 "How sweet —!"
 - 98 Cpl.'s superior
 - 100 Type of fuel
 - 101 Porgy and bass
 - 104 Fast flier
 - 105 He gives a hoot
 - 107 Cooke or Donaldson
 - 108 Male swan
 - 110 End of remark
 - 121 Biblical city
 - 122 "That's —" ('54 tune)
 - 123 Actress Thompson
 - 124 Gymnast Korbut
 - 125 "West Side Story" role
 - 126 Porsche propeller
 - 127 Tel —
 - 128 Crucifix
 - 129 Texas' state tree
 - 130 Marvel marvels
 - 131 Coty or Clair
 - 132 Dweeb
 - 7 Disagreeable sort
 - 8 Hard to believe
 - 9 Priam's wife
 - 10 Cheer
 - 11 — Romeo
 - 12 Mortgage, for one
 - 13 Actor Arnez
 - 14 Serenity
 - 15 Disgust
 - 16 Composer Khachaturian
 - 17 Deep red
 - 18 Volleyball divider
 - 28 City on the Danube
 - 29 Kind of kiln
 - 30 Fenwick or Carter
 - 34 Snitches
 - 35 Inland sea
 - 36 Prix —
 - 38 Baton Rouge coll.
 - 39 Cloth finish
 - 40 — Mateo, CA
 - 41 Errs
 - 42 It darkens your doorway
 - 43 Bird-to-be
 - 45 Join
 - 46 Follow
 - 48 "— you for real?"
 - 50 2001, to Tiberius
 - 51 Skater Midori
 - 53 Publisher Conde
 - 55 At any time
 - 56 Brewer or Wright
 - 57 Orton, for instance
 - 59 Part of Q.E.D.
 - 61 Tofu base
 - 62 Occupation
 - 64 Sail through
 - 65 Cozy cloth
 - 67 Tons of time
 - 69 Mild cigars
 - 70 Fermented tea
 - 71 Deplored
 - 72 Shock
 - 73 Word with baby or snake
 - 74 Inauguration Day event
 - 75 Filled with wonder
 - 80 Instant, for short
 - 82 Coq au —
 - 84 — polloi
 - 85 '87 Streisand film
 - 86 Egyptian deity
 - 87 "— la vie"
 - 89 Supportive of
 - 90 Princess bruiser
 - 91 Klutz
 - 92 Plastic — Band
 - 95 Bill of Rights grp.
 - 96 Interoffice communique
 - 99 Honda competitor
 - 101 Wimsey's creator
 - 102 From C to shining C?
 - 103 TV's "Scooby- —"
 - 106 '81 John Lennon hit
 - 107 Senator Thurmond
 - 109 Borg of tennis
 - 110 Actress Skye
 - 111 Bank's backup org.
 - 112 Clammy
 - 113 "Typee" sequel
 - 114 A bit of Beethoven
 - 115 Weekend warriors: abbr.
 - 116 Donated
 - 117 Frigga's fellow
 - 118 South African plant
 - 119 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
 - 120 Diane of "Chinatown"
 - 121 Weaken

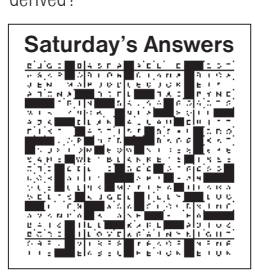


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- MUSIC: How many strings does a ukulele have?
- HISTORY: Who founded the Ottoman dynasty?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the traditional dividing line between Manhattan's east and west sides?
- U.S. STATES: What state's motto is, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you"?
- MONEY: What is the common currency of South Africa?
- LITERATURE: What was the first land Gulliver encountered in the satirical novel "Gulliver's Travels"?
- MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral D?
- PRESIDENTS: Who was Dwight Eisenhower's vice president?
- COMMON KNOWLEDGE: Who is the patron saint of physicians?

10. LANGUAGE: From what language are all the modern Romance languages directly derived?



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Pastimes
By Bill Waterson
Garfield®
SHALLOW BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU EAT LUNCH
By Glenn McCoy
Garfield
WHO MAKES UP ALL THESE RULES?
By Jim Davis
Garfield
OH, MAN...
By Glenn McCoy
Garfield
NOT A BAD DAY...

Saipan Tribune Sports
Rondo, Celtics on to beat Spurs

Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn.monroyo@saipantribune.com
Reporter
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinhi to win the doubles event at the Curtis-McDonald Tennis Complex in Wednesday.

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 32

Sablán, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
Volume XXI, Issue No. 5

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
jayeve.vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.
In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democratic-led 111th Congress accomplished.
Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times on both sides of the aisle about five times: when she thanked her colleagues for making her the first woman speaker (the fourth application when she acknowledged Boehner's family, when she said that Boehner has earned everyone's respect when she officially handed over the gavel.
See NOTEBOOK on page 8

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
GALAHAD
PALADIN LANCELOT
www.facebook.com/dingbatgames
Find today's solution in this section

Panthers take Cam Newton as No. 1 pick



NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Newton's selection as the No. 1 pick turned out to be one of the few predictable elements of this most unusual NFL draft.

While the league's labor dispute played out in the courts, and the commissioner struggled to speak over a howling crowd chanting "We want football," the draft got under way Thursday night with some surprises.

Newton was not one of them.

The Auburn quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner went to the Carolina Panthers—the worst team in the league—and vowed to immediately fix that. Newton led Auburn to an undefeated season and its first national championship since 1957.

"I'm ready to change this whole organization around, to go from worst to first," he said. "Just being a Panther is the most special part about this."

Not so special but certainly unusual was Commissioner Roger Goodell getting booed as he prepared to conduct a moment of silence for victims of the devastating storms that ripped through the South. He responded to their chants for football by saying, "I hear you. So do I."

Then he was bear-hugged by a player who is suing the league.

With the second pick, Denver took Texas A&M linebacker Von Miller, a plaintiff in the antitrust lawsuit players filed to block the lockout. He strode across the stage with tears in his eyes and embraced Goodell.

"I've never had anything against Roger Goodell," Miller said. "I just want to make sure football continues to get played. When I walked across the stage, I was meeting the commissioner. That was it."

It was a strange opening for what normally is a festive occasion. In this offseason of labor strife, the league's first work stoppage since 1987 temporarily ends Friday. The 32 teams will resume business in compliance with U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson's order to lift the lockout.

Then again, the lockout could be back in place if the NFL wins an appeal. If that happens, Newton, Miller and all the players chosen Thursday night would be thrown back into a labor limbo.

For now, they will be allowed to report to their teams, meet coaches and get playbooks. Contract negotiations are uncertain until the league announces its rules for the 2011 season—rules that might be in force for only a short time if an appeal is granted.

The draft was never in danger of being held because it was protected under the old collective bargaining agreement that expired in March.

Moments before the annual spring ritual got under way, Goodell requested a moment of silence for victims of Wednesday's storms, which left at least 280 people dead in six states and hundreds more injured. On stage, he was surrounded by the Auburn and Alabama stars and their coaches.

Of those stars, none shined brighter than Newton, who has



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton, right, holds up a jersey with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell after he was selected as the No. 1 overall pick by the Carolina Panthers in the first round of the NFL football draft at Radio City Music Hall Thursday, April 28, 2011, in New York.

shown he can handle the heat of a spotlight. He turned in a sensational 2010 season while the NCAA investigated his recruitment. Newton's father, Cecil, has admitted soliciting money from Mississippi State during the recruiting process, but said neither the player nor Auburn knew about the pay-for-play attempt.

With the third pick, Buffalo selected Alabama nose tackle Marcell Dareus, who gave Goodell an even bigger hug. Of course, Dareus weighs 308 pounds, about 70 more than Miller—and at least 100 more than Goodell.

"I wanted to give him a hug because I finally made it to the big dance," Dareus said.

Cincinnati, perhaps calling the bluff of quarterback Carson Palmer, who is demanding a trade, instead took the top receiver in this crop, A.J. Green of Georgia.

Arizona, also in need of a quarterback, selected the top cornerback available, Patrick Peterson of LSU.

The labor strife caused specu-

lation not many trades would be made Thursday. But just six picks in, Atlanta cut a massive deal with Cleveland and moved up from No. 27 to grab Alabama receiver Julio Jones—the fifth Southeastern Conference player in the first six.

Aside from bear hugs by litigants, what Atlanta and Cleveland cooked up was especially stunning.

"We knew it was going to be an aggressive move and cost us," Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff said. "As an organization we felt very strongly about the move for a player who truly adds the explosive, urgent athleticism we're looking for..."

The Browns received the Falcons' first-rounder, second—and fourth-rounders, plus their first pick and fourth-rounder in 2012.

San Francisco chose defensive end Aldon Smith of Missouri to bolster a weak pass rush, then the second quarterback was selected: Washington's Jake Locker to Tennessee.

That began a small run on passers. After Dallas went for offensive tackle Tyron Smith of Southern California with the ninth pick,

Jacksonville saw a chance to get its future quarterback. The Jaguars moved up six slots for Missouri's Blaine Gabbert, dealing their first-round pick and a second-rounder to Washington.

"You really don't have any idea where you will go, especially with the lockout," Gabbert said. "But the trades are happening now."

Zobrist has team-record 8 RBIs, Rays rout Twins



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ben Zobrist set a Tampa Bay record with eight RBIs, hitting a home run and two doubles in the Rays' 15-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday in the first game of a day-night doubleheader.

Zobrist went 4 for 6 and scored twice. He hit an RBI single in the first inning, a three-run homer in the sixth and added two-run doubles in the seventh and ninth.

Zobrist broke the team RBIs record of seven set by Carlos Pena in 2007.

Johnny Damon had three hits, including an RBI triple, to extend his hitting streak to 15 games. B.J. Upton also had three hits to help the Rays match a season high with 19 hits.

Zobrist hit his sixth home run and Casey Kotchman hit his first.

Indians 8, Royals 2

At Cleveland, Fausto Carmona, backed by four solo home runs, pitched seven solid innings as Cleveland earned its 10th straight home win, beating Kansas City.

Choo Shin-soo and Carlos Santana connected for consecutive homers with two outs in the first inning off Kyle Davies (1-3). Grady Sizemore opened the third with his fourth homer, and Shelley Duncan, a late lineup addition when designated hitter Travis Hafner was scratched because of an inflamed right ankle, began the fourth with his first of the year to make it 4-0.

Blue Jays 5, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, Corey Patterson bunted home the tie-breaking run in the ninth inning as Toronto beat American League West-leading Texas to win a series for the first time in three weeks.

Patterson dragged a bunt to the right side that was fielded by Darren Oliver (1-2) with nobody covering first base. Patterson was credited with a single. John McDonald, who held at third base until the ball was safely in play, scored the go-ahead run. The Blue Jays, who took three of four games in the series, then added two more runs after Texas made two errors on the same play.

New York 12, White Sox 3

At New York, Brett Gardner led off a six-run fifth inning with a homer for New York's first hit of the game, and Nick Swisher homered and had four RBIs in a win over Chicago.

CC Sabathia (2-1) pitched seven sharp innings to help New York gain a split of the four-game series. Swisher hit his first homer in 76 at-bats this season.

With Derek Jeter getting a planned day off and Mark Teixeira out with a sore shoulder, the Yankees struggled against Edwin Jackson (2-3) through the first four innings.

Sabathia improved to 17-4 against the White Sox in 30 career starts, a team he faced often with Cleveland in the AL Central.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, Jon Lester improved his winning streak against Baltimore to 14 games and Dustin Pedroia hit a tie-breaking infield single to help Boston averted a three-game sweep.

Lester (3-1) is unbeaten in 17

career starts versus the Orioles. He allowed two runs on four hits, walked three and struck out five. After Derrek Lee's RBI single in the first, the left-hander didn't allow another hit until Vladimir Guerrero's solo homer in the sixth.

Mariners 7, Tigers 2

At Detroit, rookie Michael Pineda struck out nine batters in six sharp innings, and Miguel Olivo and Luis Rodriguez homered to help Seattle beat Detroit for a three-game sweep.

Ichiro Suzuki added two hits, and Justin Smoak hit an RBI double in the fourth inning that put Seattle ahead to stay. The Mariners swept a three-game set against Detroit for the first time since July 2003.

Pineda (4-1) struck out the first four batters he faced and finished with nine in six innings. Although he allowed a couple runs in the second inning, the 6-foot-7 right-hander was overpowering at times.

Cardinals 11, Astros 7

At Houston, St. Louis slugger Lance Berkman homered and drove in four runs in a nine-run

sixth inning as the Cardinals beat his old team the Houston Astros 11-7 in the National League on Thursday.

Berkman's three-run shot off Fernando Abad (1-2) gave St. Louis a 5-4 lead and he then added a solo shot in the ninth. He finished with four hits and overall had eight hits and seven RBIs in his first series against his former team. It was his third multi-home run game of the season and the 28th of his career.

Giants 5, Pirates 2

At Pittsburgh, Ryan Vogelsong won in his first start in almost seven years, pitching effectively into the sixth inning against his former team in San Francisco's victory over Pittsburgh.

Making just his third appearance in the majors since 2006, the 33-year-old Vogelsong (1-0) tied a career high with eight strikeouts. He gave up four hits. Vogelsong spent three seasons in Japan before returning to the majors.

Brian Wilson pitched the ninth for his seventh save. San Francisco had lost five of its previous six.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

At Washington, new father Ian

Desmond homered and tripled in his first game back from paternity leave, powering Washington past New York.

Desmond's solo home run in the fifth gave Washington a 4-2 lead. He missed the Nationals' previous two games.

Nationals starter Livan Hernandez (3-2) pitched eight strong innings, allowing only two earned runs. He also got his first hit of the season and drove in a run with a sacrifice bunt.

Drew Storen pitched the ninth for his fourth save in four chances.

Diamondbacks 11, Cubs 2

At Phoenix, Stephen Drew hit his first career grand slam to spark an Arizona franchise-record, seven-run first inning as the Diamondbacks routed Chicago.

Drew finished with a career-best five RBIs, Miguel Montero also homered and drove in three runs, and Barry Enright (1-2) won his first game.

Cubs starter Ryan Dempster (1-3) had the shortest outing of his 266-start career, recording only one out and allowing seven runs, four walks and a hit batter. Chicago has lost four straight.

Bryant, Lakers, close out Hornets in style



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Andrew Bynum used his massive frame to own the lane, Kobe Bryant made timely shots that silenced a hostile crowd, and the Los Angeles Lakers started to look a lot more like a team trying to win a third straight NBA title.

Bryant scored 22 of his 24 points in the first three quarters, then let his teammates take over in a dominant 98-80 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Thursday night that wrapped up a first-round playoff series triumph for Los Angeles in six games.

The performance left coach Phil Jackson saying his current squad has the “potential to be as good as any team I’ve coached with the Lakers.”

He might have sounded silly saying that after Game 4, when Chris Paul’s triple-double helped the Hornets tie the series at two, but it’s not like championship Lakers teams have never started slow before.

They split their first four playoff games with Oklahoma City last season before winning that series 4-2 and moving on to eventually win the franchise’s 16th NBA title. This time, they turned in convincing double-digit victories in the last two games, winning by 16 on Tuesday night and leading by as much as 21 in the fourth quarter of the series clincher.

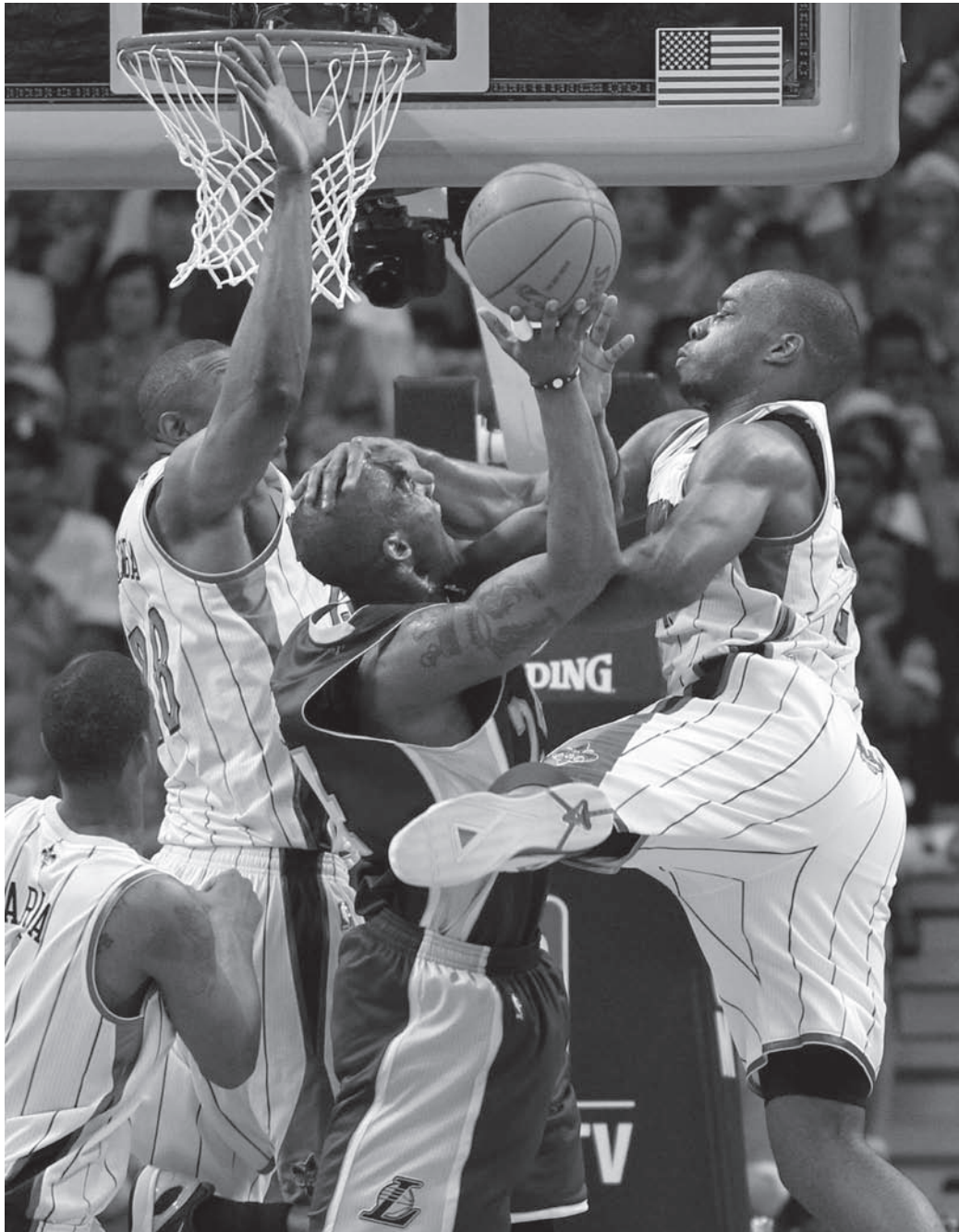
“We’re good at making adjustments and learning,” Bryant said. “So the more a series goes on, the more we learn. That comes from our coaching staff. That comes from us and the amount of experience we have, being able to pick teams apart the later we go in a series.”

The Lakers move on to the second round, facing the Dallas Mavericks, who eliminated Portland in six games. Game 1 will be Monday at Staples Center.

The 7-foot, 285-pound Bynum had 18 points and 12 rebounds, drawing groans from the New Orleans crowd with each of his eight offensive rebounds. His ability to clean up teammates’ misses and extend possessions helped Los Angeles gain a lopsided 21-4 advantage in second-chance points.

“Every time he got an offensive rebound, it was deflating,” Hornets coach Monty Williams said. “You don’t really realize how good he is until you face him in a series. Kobe’s Kobe, but I thought Bynum decided the series. He was that good.”

Pau Gasol chipped in 16 points and Lamar Odom 14 for the Lakers, whose overpowering fourth quarter provided an anticlimactic ending to what had initially been a more exciting series than many expected - particularly with the Hornets having lost leading scorer David West to a season-ending injury in late March.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, second from right, is fouled by New Orleans Hornets forward Carl Landry, right, while driving to the basket during the second half of Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in New Orleans, Thursday, April 28, 2011. The Lakers won, 98-80, to advance to the second round.

Paul, who helped the Hornets split the first four games with two sensational performances, wasn’t able to deliver a third victory. He had only seven points before hitting a 3-pointer with 4:02 to go and finished with 10 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.

“Once we started missing shots, the lane became filled with Laker jerseys, and to ask Chris to bail us out of a game like that is unfair,” Williams said. “They’re the champs and they know how to put the pedal to the medal - and they did.”

As they did in Game 5, the Lakers again controlled the paint, outrebounding New Orleans 43-30, including 14 offensive rebounds.

“We just lost to a really, really good team. It’s obvious why they’re the two-time defending champs,” Paul said. “They did a really good job of closing the lane down. ... I still tried to find my spots, but the lane was packed.”

The Lakers led by double digits throughout the fourth quarter, and Williams finally conceded the game with about a minute to go when he removed the starters, who received an appreciative standing ovation from the sellout crowd in the New Orleans Arena.

Carl Landry had 19 points for the Hornets, who have not won a playoff series since the first round in 2008, but who did better than expected this season after Williams took his first

head coaching job last summer with a team that had missed the playoffs last season. Trevor Ariza scored 12 points for New Orleans and Marco Belinelli 11.

After falling behind by as

many as 12 points in the middle of the third quarter, New Orleans was as close as 54-48 when Jason Smith hit a jumper. But Bryant and Gasol each hit a pair of free throws to get Los Angeles’ lead back to 10, and each time the Hornets tried to claw back after that, the Lakers had an answer.

When Willie Green hit a 3 to make it 60-53, Bryant came right back with a 3 of his own and put his finger to his lips as the crowd quieted again.

Mavericks 103, Trail Blazers 96

In Portland, Dirk Nowitzki had 33 points and 11 rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks withstood a furious Portland comeback to beat the Trail Blazers 103-96 Thursday night and take the first-round playoff series in six games.

The Mavericks advanced to face the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, who beat New Orleans 98-80 Thursday night to take that first-round series.

Jason Terry finished with 22 points as the Mavericks snapped the home-court advantage that each team had held during the playoffs and the regular season.

The Blazers led by as many as 12 points early after Gerald Wallace went on a tear with 13 first-quarter points. But Wallace left the game for much of the second quarter with a sore back and Portland surrendered the lead.

Wallace would return to finish with 32 points and 12 rebounds. LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 points and 10 rebounds.

Wallace’s fast-break dunk narrowed it to 86-85 with 5:24 to go, but Jason Kidd answered with a 3-pointer and Terry added a step-back jumper to keep the Mavericks out front 91-85

with 4:04 left.

After Wallace made a pair of free throws, Aldridge missed two for Portland and Shawn Marion’s hook made it 93-87 for Dallas.

Terry added a jumper to put the Mavs ahead 95-89 with 1:42 to go and time ran out on

Hawks 84, Magic 81

In Atlanta, the Hawks are moving on in the playoffs, knocking out the team that beat them so badly a year ago.

Joe Johnson scored 23 points and came up with a huge offensive rebound, leading Atlanta past Orlando 84-81 in Game 6 Thursday night to finish off the Magic in the opening round.

The Hawks, who won the series 4-2, advanced to the second round for the third straight year, this time against the top-seeded Bulls. Game 1 is Monday night in Chicago.

What a difference a year makes. In 2010, the Magic routed the Hawks in four straight games, winning by an average of more than 25 points. It was the most lopsided sweep in NBA playoff history.

“What better redemption than to play them again?” said Jamal Crawford, who hit two big free throws after Johnson swatted him the ball. “We were up to the challenge.”

Orlando heads into an uncertain offseason after its earliest playoff ouster since 2007. Who knows what the future holds for the Magic’s best player, Dwight Howard?

The big man can become a free agent after next season but may be angling to get out earlier, now that the Magic appear to be heading in the wrong direction. Orlando made the final two years ago, the conference finals last season.

Watson, Jones share Zurich Classic lead

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Bubba Watson entered the Zurich Classic as a favor to his mother.

“My mom really wanted me to come,” said Watson, tied for first-round lead with Matt Jones after opening with a 6-under 66 on Thursday. “My mom always comes to this golf tournament, so when my mom says she wants to come, I’m here. And somehow I shot 6 under today.”

Watson, the winner at Torrey Pines in late January, made a 32-foot eagle putt on the par-5 11th and had six birdies and two bogeys at TPC Louisiana—far from his favorite course.

“The way the course is, it just doesn’t fit my eye the way it is,” Watson said. “It’s a great golf course, a great layout. For me, it’s just not one that I want to play every day.”

“Today, it just worked out. I hit my driver really well. I’ve been hitting it good all year, but I made some putts and hit some good iron shots and somehow

came out 6 under.”

Jones chipped in from 57 feet for a birdie on his final hole.

“I pitched it perfectly,” Jones said. “It grabbed a little and just trickled in nicely.”

Jones had eight birdies and two bogeys. Playing the back nine first, the Australian reeled off four consecutive birdies beginning at the par-4 16th. He followed with a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th, an 11-footer on the 18th and a 20-foot putt on the first.

Jones and put in a lot of work this week with swing coach Gary Barter.

“My hands are pretty sore, actually, after all the work we’ve done,” Jones said. “So it’s coming slowly. Today we saw some positives out of what we’ve been doing.”

Watson and Jones played in the afternoon in better scoring conditions after a strong north

winds made morning play more difficult.

“The guys set it up pretty well with the conditions that we had out there with the wind and everything,” Jones said. “The greens are perfect. And I played well. ... I actually made a lot of putts today and chipped in on the last to finish the round, which is good.”

Joe Durant, Tommy Gainey, Carl Pettersson, John Rollins, Nick O’Hern and David Duval opened with 67s. Durant played in the morning.

“I think I just stayed patient,” said Durant, sixth last week at Hilton Head. “Some of the pins were in some difficult spots so you had to kind of shoot away from them. I played around here enough to know what it’s going to do with different winds.”

Gainey was third last week.

“I think the momentum from last week is definitely with me,” he said.

Luke Donald, a playoff loser last week at Hilton Head in a failed bid to jump from No. 3 to No. 1 in the world, shot a 68 to match Matt Bettencourt, Webb Simpson, Jason Dufner, Charles Howell and 2002 winner K.J. Choi. Hilton Head winner Brandt Snedeker opened with a 77. He had a triple bogey on the par-3 ninth when he hit his tee shot in the water.

Rickie Fowler and Steve Stricker shot 70s, U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell had a 73, and Vijay Singh opened with a 74. Singh, critical of the Pete Dye-designed layout, had a double bogey on the 18th hole.

John Daly struggled to a 9-over 81. Daly was 2 over through 14 holes, then played his last four in 7 over. He had a triple bogey on the par-4 16th after hitting two shots into the water.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	8	.636	—
Tampa Bay	14	11	.560	1 1/2
Toronto	12	13	.480	3 1/2
Boston	11	13	.458	4
Baltimore	10	13	.435	4 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	16	8	.667	—
Detroit	12	13	.480	4 1/2
Kansas City	12	13	.480	4 1/2
Chicago	10	16	.385	7
Minnesota	9	15	.375	7
West Division				
Texas	15	10	.600	—
Los Angeles	14	11	.560	1
Oakland	12	13	.480	3
Seattle	11	15	.423	4 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	16	8	.667	—
Florida	15	8	.652	1/2
Atlanta	13	13	.500	4
Washington	11	13	.458	5
New York	11	14	.440	5 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	14	11	.560	—
Cincinnati	13	12	.520	1
Milwaukee	12	12	.500	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	11	14	.440	3
Chicago	10	14	.417	3 1/2
Houston	9	16	.360	5
West Division				
Colorado	16	7	.696	—
Los Angeles	13	13	.500	4 1/2
San Francisco	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Arizona	11	13	.458	5 1/2
San Diego	9	16	.360	8

Yesterday's Games	
Seattle 7, Detroit 2	
Tampa Bay 15, Minnesota 3 1st game	
Toronto 5, Texas 2	
Boston 6, Baltimore 2	
N.Y. Yankees 12, Chicago White Sox 3	
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 2	
Tampa Bay 6, Minnesota 1 2nd game	
San Francisco 5, Pittsburgh 2	
Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 3	
St. Louis 11, Houston 7	
Arizona 11, Chicago Cubs 2	

ZURICH CLASSIC SCORES

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP) — Scores Thursday from the \$5.5-million Zurich Classic of New Orleans, played at the par- 72 (36-36), 7,399-yard TPC of Louisiana

FIRST ROUND	
Bubba Watson	33-33=66
Matt Jones	33-33=66
Joe Durant	34-33=67
Tommy Gainey	32-35=67
Carl Pettersson	32-35=67
John Rollins	34-33=67
Nick O'Hern	33-34=67
David Duval	34-33=67
Matt Bettencourt	34-34=68
Webb Simpson	35-33=68
Jason Dufner	36-32=68
Luke Donald	34-34=68
K.J. Choi	35-33=68
Charles Howell III	36-32=68
Charley Hoffman	35-34=69
Billy Mayfair	35-34=69
Joseph Bramlett	35-34=69
Ben Crane	34-35=69
Josh Teater	33-36=69
Hunter Haas	34-35=69
Charlie Wi	33-37=70
Marc Turnesa	34-36=70
Ryan Palmer	33-37=70
David Toms	36-34=70
Rickie Fowler	36-34=70
David Mathis	34-36=70
Martin Piller	35-35=70
John Senden	35-35=70
Vaughn Taylor	39-31=70
D.A. Points	35-35=70
Steve Stricker	35-35=70
Alexandre Rocha	34-36=70
George McNeill	35-36=71
D.J. Trahan	34-37=71
Will MacKenzie	36-35=71
Chez Reavie	34-37=71
Camilo Villegas	34-37=71
Nick Watney	36-35=71
Chris Couch	35-36=71
John Mallingier	37-34=71
D.J. Brigman	33-38=71
Fabian Gomez	36-35=71

Chris Tidland	34-37=71
Brad Faxon	37-34=71
Brian Davis	36-35=71
Brandt Jobe	35-36=71
Jason Bohn	34-37=71
Troy Matteson	37-34=71
Brian Gay	37-34=71
Lee Janzen	37-34=71
Peter Tomasulo	36-35=71
David Hearn	33-38=71
Shaun Micheel	36-36=72
Greg Chalmers	35-37=72
Andres Romero	36-36=72
Robert Allenby	35-37=72
Tim Herron	36-36=72
Brendon de Jonge	36-36=72
Tag Ridings	35-37=72
Aron Price	37-35=72
Billy Horschel	35-37=72
Richard S. Johnson	36-36=72
Kevin Streelman	35-37=72
Steve Elkington	35-37=72
Peter Hanson	37-35=72
Pat Perez	37-35=72
J.J. Henry	37-35=72
Jeff Maggert	36-36=72
Chris DiMarco	35-37=72
Cameron Tringale	37-35=72
Bobby Gates	38-34=72
Colt Knost	35-37=72
Phil Schmitt	36-36=72
Briny Baird	36-37=73
Jeff Klauk	34-39=73
Steve Flesch	36-37=73
John Merrick	35-38=73
Kevin Sutherland	37-36=73
Paul Stankowski	34-39=73
Keegan Bradley	36-37=73
Fred Funk	37-36=73
Stephen Ames	36-37=73
Jeff Overton	35-38=73
Dean Wilson	36-37=73
James Driscoll	36-37=73
Michael Connell	38-35=73
Chris Stroud	36-37=73
Steven Bowditch	36-37=73
Kyle Stanley	36-37=73
Jim Renner	37-36=73
Michael Allen	38-35=73
Graeme McDowell	34-39=73
Blake Adams	36-37=73
Scott Gutschewski	36-37=73
Scott Stallings	39-34=73
Michael Sim	38-36=74
Harrison Frazer	39-35=74
Vijay Singh	36-38=74
Michael Bradley	36-38=74
Boo Weekley	36-38=74
Michael Thompson	37-37=74
Shane Bertsch	37-37=74
Spencer Levin	37-37=74
Troy Merritt	37-37=74
Woody Austin	40-34=74
Rory Sabbatini	47-37=74
Tim Petrovic	35-39=74
Rod Pampling	37-37=74
Scott McCarron	40-34=74
Sunghoon Kang	40-34=74
Jarrold Lyle	36-38=74
Ryuji Imada	38-37=75
Matt Every	40-35=75
Scott Piercy	36-39=75
Kris Blanks	36-39=75
Alex Prugh	38-37=75
Chad Collins	37-38=75
Will Strickler	39-36=75
Michael Putnam	38-37=75
Nate Smith	37-38=75
Sam Saunders	37-38=75
Duffy Waldorf	38-38=76
Chris Riley	38-38=76
Bryce Molder	37-39=76
Bio Kim	37-39=76
Kevin Kisner	38-38=76
Jim Herman	38-38=76
Bob Estes	37-39=76
Joe Ogilvie	38-38=76
Kevin Stadler	40-36=76
Zack Miller	37-39=76
Justin Hicks	38-38=76
Daniel Summerhays	36-40=76
Ben Martin	37-39=76
Scott Gordon	38-38=76
William McGirt	36-40=76
Nathan Green	39-38=77
Justin Leonard	36-41=77
Justin Rose	38-39=77
Brandt Snedeker	39-38=77
Carl Paulson	40-37=77
Jim Carter	40-37=77
Tom Pernice, Jr.	39-38=77
Rich Beem	40-37=77
Kevin Chappell	35-42=77
Chris Baryla	39-38=77
Matt McQuillan	40-38=78
Sean O'Hair	42-36=78
Jerry Kelly	47-42=79
Andres Gonzales	40-39=79
Cameron Percy	39-40=79
David Bradshaw	38-42=80
John Daly	37-44=81
Craig Bowden	41-40=81

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAGLES

From Page 28

Torchbearers.

Agape led in the opening canto, 13-11, behind Dai Li Xing's six points. However, the Eagles began to work in the second canto, outscoring their foes, 22-10, to grab the driver's seat at halftime, 33-23. Dae Min Jeon led GCA's uprising in the second period, firing all his 15 points in that canto.

The Eagles never looked back from thereon despite fielding their second and third stringers in the second half.

Moon Bin Hong and Si Woo Kim added 14 and 11 points for GCA's winning cause, while Li Wei Liang paced Agape with his 17 points and Dai chipped in 14.

Against, Mt. Carmel, GCA needed five extra minutes to avenge their first round loss to the Knights.

MHS 1 wins debut over Kagman

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Marianas High School's varsity girls softball team prevailed in its debut game in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-Pitch Softball League, winning over the Kagman High School, 11-7, last Thursday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Lady Dolphins broke the ice with a run off an RBI smash by Florita Billy and then took an 8-1 lead in top half of the second off a double by Ann Margaret Pua, a walk, and base knocks by Billy, Kory Sablan and Anna Canico. As MHS batted around, Jaime Mendoza delivered an RBI and Pua cleared the bases with a triple, but got caught in a run down. The Lady Dolphins stole seven bases in the frame.

The Lady Ayuyus managed a



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's Ann Margaret Pua swings during their game against Kagman High School in the MISO fast-pitch league last Thursday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

run in the bottom half when Zerah Castro led off with a hit and was singled home by Shirley Taitano.

Then Kagman contained

MHS at the start of the third and got another run back in the bottom frame. Suanne Camacho led off with a hit and was driven

HUSTLERS

From Page 28

down on the mound after his shaky start and went on to hold the Hunters scoreless for the remainder of the contest. He went on to give up two earned runs in six innings off four hits, four walks, and a bean ball with 12 strikeouts. Duenas also batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs and one run. Saralu swung 3-for-3 with two RBIs and one run.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Fielders 8, Ol'Aces 3

The Fielders built a 6-0 lead after the first two innings, scoring three runs in each frame. Fielders scored off errors in the first inning and off a single by

Poland Masaharu, followed by a two RBI base rip by Carl Camacho in the next frame.

After a quiet third, the Fielders added two runs in the bottom of the fourth off an RBI double by Masaharu and another RBI base knock by Camacho.

The Aces finally answered with two runs to start the fifth, but were stuffed in the sixth frame and only managed a run in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Jared Lizama allowed two earned runs in five and a third innings off seven hits, two walks, and a bean ball with five strikeouts.

Masaharu batted 3-for-3 with an RBI and three runs. Camacho also swung 3-for-3 with three RBIs and a run.

DREAM

From Page 28

quires coordination and tactics to win a race. I know that I will be up against athletes who have been in the sport for a long time," said Mancao, who started out as a middle distance runner and then just a few years ago switched to triathlon.

"I am confident that the training I have been receiving on Guam will pull me through. It will be awesome to bring home a medal, but right now my goal is to finish with a good time. Who knows what will happen? It all comes down to the person who has the best fitness level

in August. If I'm at my prime by then, I have higher chances to play my cards right out on the course," the Marianas High School graduate added.

Even before his selection, Mancao has been training every day, allotting three to four hours to bike rides every morning before going to his class at the University of Guam.

"My daily training starts at 5am. Training can be a burden for some athletes, but for me, I look at it in a different perspective. Training lets me listen, study, think, and fight my physical and mental weaknesses. Training makes me a stronger athlete. I would say nutrition

MAJORS

Rays 10, IP&E Strikers 1

The Rays took a 5-0 lead after three innings. They scored two runs in the top of the first off a single by Jessie Kalen and an RBI knock by Peterson Rengiil and added three more at the start of the second off a pair of hits, two fielder's choices, and a walk. Kalen, J.D. Delos Santos and Rengiil all came out with an RBI.

Strikers got a run back off an error in the bottom of the fourth, but the Rays pulled ahead, 7-1, in the top of the fifth. John Taisacan ripped an RBI double and the other run scored off an error. The Rays added three more runs in the sixth off one hit and two walks; Santos hit an RBI double

home by Janica Lizama.

The Lady Dolphins pulled ahead, 10-2, after the fourth off three hits; Deedra Santos and Sablan hammered RBI singles.

After a quiet fifth inning, MHS added its final run to start the sixth and the Ayuyus mustered a handful of runs in the bottom frame. However, the Lady Dolphins escaped and both teams went three up and three down in the final stand.

Pua swung 3-for-5 and was just a home run shy of the cycle. She also scored two runs with a stolen base and pitched the whole game.

Meanwhile, the tentative MISO fast-pitch softball schedule lists the next contest at the Tan Ge field for Tuesday with Mount Carmel High School Lady Knights debuting against MHS 2 (0-1) at 4pm. Then on Thursday, MHS 1 will challenge the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays (1-0).

and stole home in the inning. He also shut down the Strikers in the last two innings and finished a complete game, allowing an unearned run off just three hits and recording 11 strikeouts.

The win improved the Rays record to 8-3 for fourth place in the team standings.

The Jets lead the Majors with their 10-0 record, followed by the JPO Enforcers (10-1), Bank of Saipan Red Sox (8-1). Rays (8-3), Strikers (7-5), Comets (6-4), Matuis Twins (5-4), A's (4-3), Falcons (4-3), Ol'Aces (3-6), IT&E (3-8), Little Legals (2-10), McDonald's (1-9), and Tanapag Braves (0-8).

Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs, which will run from May 9 to 15.

during and after workouts is my secret ingredient to success. I thank First Endurance for providing me a safe racing formula that enhanced my performance level," said Mancao, who also thanked Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation and Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association for his selection and his family, friends, and coaches for their support.

The competition in China will be Mancao's first off-island cycling event and he hopes this will open new opportunities for him.

"I'm praying this race won't just bring me lifetime memories, but also open up doors for me to compete for University

of Colorado in Boulder," said Mancao, who is planning to matriculate at the University of Colorado after completing his associate degree at UOG and try out for the Buffaloes' cycling team.

Mancao added going to the World University Games with one of his friends is a plus.

"I'm happy that Rezne and I will be going to China together. We know each other real well in and outside sport. I consider him like a brother. After our success in the 2010 Micronesia Games, we will do our best to represent the CNMI in the 2011 World University Games," the 20-year-old athlete said.

Scoring by quarters: 6-10, 22-24, 35-44, 54-54, 64-60 (OT).

Friday's Game

GCA 61 – Jeon 15, Hong 14, Kim 11, Chargualaf 5, A. Salas 4, Reyes 3, Miguel 2, J. Salas 2, Lee 2, De Leon 2.

Agape 53 – Li 17, Dai 14, Xing 8, Wong 6, Xi 2, Tao 2, Puno 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-13, 33-23, 45-33, 61-53.

Thursday's Game

GCA 64 – Jeon 34, Kim 12, A. Salas 10, Chargualaf 8.

MCS 60 – Cabaltica 26, M. Kim 18, Igitol 12, Baka 3, Bautista 2, Griffin 2.

and limited to four points in the first, Angelo Salas stepped up in overtime to settle the score against Mt. Carmel. The Eagles started the season with a win over Agape before dropping their second game against the Knights.



Bryant, Lakers,
close out
Hornets in style

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Panthers take
Cam Newton
as No. 1 pick

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

Hustlers advance to Big League semis

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers defeated JC Marketing-Tooth Works Hunters, 10-3, last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to secure the last playoff berth in the Big League.

The win evened out Hustlers' card to 4-4, while Hunters dropped to a 1-7 card.

In other results, the Tan Holdings Fielders (9-1) downed the CTS Ol'Aces (6-4), 8-3, in the Senior League game last Monday, and the YCO Ray's (8-3) stunned IP&E Strikers (7-5), 10-1, in the Majors match at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield last Wednesday.

A senior league triple-feature takes place at the Tan Ko Field today with the Ol'Aces meeting the Lions at 9am; the Fielders taking on the Hunters at 1pm; and the Jets challenging the Heats at 3pm. The Big League takes over the field tomorrow with the



Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers' MacGarett Duenas delivers a pitch against the JC Marketing-Tooth Works Hunters during the Big League game last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Camacho grabs top spot in batting race

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers' Cedric Camacho had already surpassed IP&E Strikers' Perry Celis for the top spot in the batting race in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League Baseball.

Camacho was 29-for-40 at the plate for a .728 batting average, besting Celis' 20-for-29 and .689 rate. Batting statistics was based on at least 24 times at bat as of April 22.

Falcons' Juan Quitugua (17/25/0.680), Red Sox's Jonathan Camacho (19/28/0.678), Ray's Peterson Rengil (20/31/0.641), IP&E's Juden Joyner (20/33/0.606), Red Sox's Craig Aguon (21/36/0.583), JPO's Henry Lizama (20/35/0.571), Ol'Aces Virgil Secharmedal (15/27/0.555), Aces' Allen Cepeda (16-30/0.533), Jets' Thomas Dela Cruz (13/26/0.500), McDonald's George Pangelinan (15/31/0.483), Red Sox's Jonathan Sagun (14/20/0.466), Jets' Franklyn Lizama (13/30/0.433), and JPO's Ethan Lizama (16/37/0.432) and Joaquin Saralu (16/38/0.421) rounded out the Top 14.

Cedric Camacho's five triples tops the field and he also leads the league in RBIs with 25. Henry Lizama plays

second fiddle in both categories with four triples and 18 RBIs. However, Henry Lizama leads in runs scored with 25 over JPO's Shakobe Rangamar (23) and Celis (21).

Twins' Rokie Tenorio is running away with the home run category, boasting four long balls this season. Quitugua and Aguon lead the field in doubles with seven; Joyner has six two-baggers under his belt.

Two-way tie in pitching lead

In pitching, Jets' Nathan Camacho and Red Sox's Jonathan Camacho both maintained perfect 0.00 Earned Run Averages. Nathan has gone 21 frames without giving up an earned run, while Jonathan made it through 16.

Other notables include JPO-trio Ethan Lizama (22-IP/1-ER/0.28-ERA), Jack Saralu (21-IP/2-ER/0.57-ERA) and Cedric Camacho (23-IP/3-ER/0.78-ERA).

Comets' Erik Cruz is still on target for the division strikeout crown with 67 strikeouts. Ray's JD Delos Santos (59), Twins' Jun Atalig (55), Secharmedal (51) and Nathan Camacho (50) are all on the chase.

Pitching statistics was based on at least 15 innings as of April 22.

BIG LEAGUE

Hustlers 10, Hunters 3

The Hunters managed an early 3-1 lead after the opening frame off two hits and three walks.

Hunters' Lincoln Ingram busted an RBI single and scored later off a wild pitch; the other run came from a wild pitch earlier in the frame.

Hustlers got one run back in the bottom frame off an RBI base rip by Nokki Saralu. Hustlers' MacGarett Duenas settled

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Dream come true for Mancao

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matthew Mancao had his wish granted when he was selected as one of the two CNMI representatives to the 2011 World University Games in Shenzhen, China, in August.



"I've been dreaming for this moment since I attended the FISU Forum in Spain last year. Being selected to represent the CNMI in the World University Games is such an honor. I can't stress how much this opportunity means to me. My dreams are no longer dreams," Mancao said.

The 2010 Micronesian



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matthew Mancao slows down as he nears the bike-run transition area in the triathlon competition of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

Games bronze medalist was the first individual from the CNMI to participate in the International University Sports Federation-organized event when he joined the 10th FISU Forum in Vigo, Spain. The six-day forum featured collegiate athletes and discussed strategic plans in university sport at the national level, education and environmental awareness through university sport, women's leadership in university sport, and university sport and academic recognition.

This year, Mancao will join Rezne Wong in another FISU-sanctioned event, but this time the former will be a competitor, joining the cycling road race.

"This will be my biggest event so far and I'm quite anxious about this competition. This will be a huge leap from triathlon. Cycling is a whole different sport. It re-

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Eagles soar to third straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Grace Christian Academy extended its winning run to three after beating Agape Christian School, 61-53, in the boys varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League yesterday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

All these victories were recorded this week, improving the Eagles record to 4-1. The Ed Salas-coached GCA first started the week with a 57-47 win over Saipan International School last Wednesday and then downed Mt. Carmel School last Thursday, 64-60.

Against Agape yesterday, the Eagles recovered from a slow start and went on to lead by as much as 14 points in the third quarter, 45-31, en route to an eight-point victory against the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Brandon Chargualaf pulls up for a jumper against two Agape Christian School defenders during their game in the COPSSA high school caging yesterday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.